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SUMMIT SEGMENT OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BEGINS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Statements Made by Heads of State or Government of 25 Nations

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 June -- The Heads of State or Government of 25 nations this morning addressed the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as it began a two-day Summit segment of its two weeks of meetings.

The President of Burkina Faso spoke also on behalf of the members of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, comprising the Heads of State of Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Other speakers this morning were the Presidents of the Maldives, Gabon, Namibia, Uganda, Argentina, Iceland, Gambia and the Federated States of Micronesia; the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba; the Prince of Monaco; the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Estonia; and the President of the Supreme Council of Lithuania.

Also addressing the Conference were the Prime Ministers of India, Portugal, Malta, Turkey, United Kingdom, China, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Madagascar and Canada, and the Federal Chancellor of Germany.

In addition, the Vice-Presidents of Yemen, Ghana and Ukraine and the Crown Prince of Morocco, addressed the Conference.

A statement was also made by the President of Brazil, welcoming the Heads of State or Government.

Opening Statement by Conference President

FERNANDO COLLOR, President of Brazil and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), welcoming the Heads of State or Government to Rio: This is the largest international summit meeting in history. Being the largest in size, it must also be the greatest in results. Consequently, a very grave responsibility rests on everyone's shoulders. This meeting must stand as a response to the great challenge of saving life on earth.

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The world's people expect much from their leaders, and it is their duty to work to implement the decisions taken at Rio rapidly and efficiently, and correspond to the expectations of the world. "This is a unique, and perhaps final opportunity, to construct a new world -- a world that is environmentally healthy and socially just. May God help us in this task."

Statements in Summit Segment

P.V. NARASIMHA RAO, Prime Minister of India: There can be no conservation of the environment without the promise of development, and no sustained development without preservation of the environment. The recognition of this symbiosis is the only enduring basis on which this Conference can attain its purpose. Safeguarding the planetary environment is not at all a North-South issue; it spans both, yet each seems obsessed with the facet that concerns it, in disregard of the larger dimension. The resources of the planet would be able to sustain a given population, within a given range of exploitation, subject to a given rate of regeneration and maintenance. Any imbalance in any factor is sure to cut short the life of the planet.

To tackle the common challenge of the environment, a whole new range of environment-friendly technologies will need to be developed and existing ones either effectively adapted or discarded. The transfer of destructive technologies must first be stopped, which alone will give incentive to the development of environment-friendly technologies. Thereafter will come the stage of transferring those new technologies everywhere.

The reversal of the planet's degradation would be easier and speedier if nations joined hands in common endeavours. India suggests the setting up of joint ventures or joint research and development projects between developed and developing countries, to tackle environmental issues together. The UNCED marks the commencement of a process and must become part of a continuing review and action. Success in what has been started today will only be possible if nations avoid the temptation of treating the issues as subjects for political posturing and bargaining.

ANIBAL CAVACO SILVA, Prime Minister of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community: The European Community will make its contribution so that together, nations will find the correct answers in the search for sustainable development. It proposes a concept based on cooperation and real partnership among nations.

Portugal will sign the two Conventions, also on behalf of the European Community. The Rio Declaration has renewed and strengthened the 1972 Stockholm Declaration. Another important result of UNCED will be the adoption of "Agenda 21", which contains an action programme for sustainable development. Preservation of the environment cannot be separated from the eradication of poverty and hunger. The Community has decided to make available to developing countries new and additional funds totalling $4 billion, to be used for the speedy implementation of projects and programmes contained in Agenda 21 and other obligations of the Conference.

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The defence of the environment can only be effectively developed within a framework of cooperation. The Climate Change Convention is an example of the distribution of responsibility among all countries. The European Community appeals for the greatest number of signatures and ratification of this Convention, followed by specific protocols. While the Biodiversity Convention does not meet all expectations, it is a solid basis for future action. The Community is pleased about the consensus on forest principles; the threat of desertification requires a global response, such as a legally binding convention.

BLAISE COMPAORE, President of Burkina Faso and Current Chairman of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, speaking also on behalf of the Heads of State of Committee members -- Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal: The ever-increasing emissions of greenhouse-effect gases, the depletion of the ozone layer, the pollution caused by the unwise exploitation of natural resources, deforestation and desertification are endangering the global population. North and South collectively must join forces to avert these scourges and save the planet.

The Sahelian economic situation is characterized by a deficit in both the balance of payments and public finance, a degradation of overall agricultural production and terms of trade as well as by an intolerable indebtedness which signs away any prospect aimed at funding productive investments. The consequences on the social sectors are particularly negative, affecting the most vulnerable sectors of society. At the environmental level, desertification and deforestation remain a genuine scourge, causing annual losses estimated at more than $26 billion. Both ecological phenomena are responsible for increased water shortage or inaccessibility of drinking water for a large section of the population.

The present Summit should not be a tribunal, but a vast forum, the final objective of which would be the establishment of a free-will partnership in which the countries of the North and the South would resolutely undertake to ensure the survival of humanity and to make the environment a component of economic and social development. A joint definition of objectives and terms of international cooperation must be agreed to in the field of environment and development. The Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity must be signed in a spirit of consensus.

MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM, President of the Maldives: As a result of global warming, the Maldives may sometime during the next century disappear from the face of the earth. This Conference may be the last opportunity to initiate global action that will save the Maldives and other low-lying island States from becoming environmental victims.

A common basis for island societies is their dependence on the sea and the rich diversity of marine resources available to support them. This reliance reflects their limited land area. Island societies have learned to cope with change, to suit a changing environment. Unfortunately, the balance that existed between people and their island environments has now been

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irrevocably changed by the over-exploitation of natural resources and unprecedented population growth. The capital of the Maldives, for example, has a population of 58,000 on an island 1,800 metres long and 1,200 metres wide. High population densities have given rise to severe local environmental problems.

The Maldives has taken practical measures to address these problems. Yet, international assistance in the process is needed, particularly in the face of the new challenges posed by global warming and sea-level rise. A petition signed by 112,000 people -- 74 per cent of the population over 10 years of age -- calling for international action to save the Maldives is to be presented here in Rio. If we really want to preserve the earth, the rich North must assist the developing South with the necessary funds and technology.

EDWARD FENECH-ADAMI, Prime Minister of Malta: Malta's initiative resulted in the definition by the United Nations General Assembly of climate change as a common concern of mankind and this led to adoption of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which many are signing at Rio. The decisions being taken by UNCED will provide the first comprehensive programme for effective action at the global, regional and national levels. An important decision is the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development to pursue the work launched by UNCED, and the reaffirmation of the European Community's commitments on greenhouse gas emissions.

The agreements being reached as part of Agenda 21 relating to new and additional financial resources, as well as to concessionary and preferential transfer of technology, are of special importance. The restrained way in which some of the commitments of Agenda 21 are formulated should be seen as a reflection of the complexity and range of the diverse issues involved, rather than as a sign of lack of fundamental commitment.

Malta has taken concrete steps to integrate environmental and developmental concerns in its national development process. At the European level, it actively supports the proposal to draw up a "European Charter and Convention on the Environment and Sustainable Development". In the Mediterranean, the Action Plan arising from the 1976 Barcelona Convention is regarded as a successful model for tackling the interrelationship of environmental and developmental concerns at the regional level. The international community still lacks an institution which could be entrusted with its collective concern for the common heritage, which is Planet Earth. The United Nations Trusteeship Council has the potential to become this institution.

SULEYMAN DEMIREL, Prime Minister of Turkey: For a sustainable development, the economic means of environmental management must be enhanced. This means establishing norms for the protection of environmental quality and further developing research and technical capabilities. Sustainable development lies at the heart of the Conference. The critical importance of both new and additional financial resources and technology transfer must be underlined.

No real progress is possible until the strains placed on natural resources by rapid population growth are ameliorated. The rate of increase in population has reached alarming levels. On the other hand the careless, irrational utilization of the earth's limited resources need to be avoided. That requires awareness at the grass roots, as well as education and active public participation.

Turkey attaches great importance to the Biodiversity Convention and emphasizes the importance of the wetlands which have a significant capacity to hold carbon dioxide and to maintain plant and animal life. Turkey proposes the convening of a conference in the fall of 1993 on the "Special Ecological Protection of Wetlands" which it would like to host.

Turkey also attributes particular importance to the protection of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea against pollution. The Summit presents new opportunities for understanding the dual role of integrating nations, both within their regions and within the global family of nations in the cause of preserving the planet as a pleasant and healthy place for future generations.

OMAR BONGO, President of Gabon: Since Stockholm, important progress has been made; however, the environment continues to decline in an alarming way. Rio allows the world to take stock of the situation and re-define the content and methods of sustainable development.

The cold war is over and with it, the partisan interests that prevented the United Nations from solving many of the world's problems. The outcome of this Summit may determine the future of what is called "preventive diplomacy", the kind of diplomacy needed to solve the problems of our times. The planet is caught up in challenges of exceptional seriousness -- pollution, destruction of soils, degradation of the ozone and the greenhouse effect, in addition to poverty.

African forests are the last defence in the way of the progressive movement of the deserts on the African continent. Any diminution in this resource will lead to a disastrous situation. In Gabon, the forests are an essential sector of the economy and provide jobs to nearly 30 per cent of the population. In rural areas, they are used for food, energy and habitat.

Despite the importance of forests, Gabon had limited their use to 1 per cent per year and has pursued conservation and reforestation. Rio has reassured Gabon that it has taken the right direction. Oil is also important to Gabon and, while it is true that some energy does pollute, its impact on development cannot be ignored. More research on climate change is necessary to better define the relationship between that phenomenon and gas emissions.

SAM NUJOMA, President of Namibia: The Constitution of Namibia includes special provisions on environmental protection. It specifically provides for "the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and the utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis". The Constitution also charges an ombudsman with investigating the destruction of ecosystems and the over-utilization of

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natural resources, thus ensuring environmental accountability. These constitutional provisions focus attention on the importance of adopting environmental programmes that do not undermine the rich but fragile ecological base of Namibia.

All sectors of Namibian society participate in and support activities relating to the Earth Summit. Namibians are determined to ensure that the development path it is molding will be sustainable. Colonial exploitation, war and the resulting poverty have left terrible scars on both society and the environment. Unless the problem of poverty is successfully addressed, there will be no success in addressing the problems of the environment.

To achieve the common global goal, the basis of the relationship between North and South needs to change significantly. All must accept a shared common responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of ecological systems and processes, the sustainable utilization of resources and the use of environmentally sound technology. This will only be possible if new and additional financial resources become available to enable the implementation of Agenda 21.

YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, President of Uganda: This debate should not be polarized between North and South. There are two groups which are destroying the environment. The first group is made up of those who are ignorant of the destruction they are causing, and those who know but do not have the means to stop the destruction -- destruction out of ignorance or necessity. In the second group are the profit-seekers. They want easy money, so they use technology that pollutes.

The first group -- the ignorant and unable -- are in the South. The other group, destroying because of profit, are in the North almost exclusively. In Uganda, 50,000 hectares of forest are falling every year for fuelwood. However, it does have potential hydropower and geothermal power. Although not yet producing much, that should increase in the next few years. In the meantime, Uganda has developed an environmental action plan, backed by environmental law. The plan includes such things as requiring all farms to have hedges made up of trees, forest belts planted around all rivers and lakes, and planting forests on all hills not used for animal grazing or cultivation.

The South should not say: "If the North does not give us money, we will cut our forest." These forests are needed for their own sake, to prevent silting of rivers, lowering of the water tables and many other things. The South must protect its own forest. However, the powerful in the North must stop polluting the globe and must contribute to the struggle to protect the environment in the South. As former colonial Powers, they are responsible for many of the distortions in the South. They have a moral obligation to help the South in its fight against environmental degradation.

JOHN MAJOR, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom: This Summit must find a balance between the exploitation of the environment that is vital for survival, and the conservation of the environment necessary for survival.

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Some will decry the results of Rio, but it is evidence of a dramatic shift. The environment has become a vital interest for all. Much of the damage has been done, not out of greed but out of ignorance. For many, it was not until they saw the picture of the earth from outer space that they realized how fragile and precious the globe is. But, at this Conference, people cannot plead ignorance. The problems are known and it is tempting to pose the most radical solutions. The decisions are not easy. It is not easy to tell a miner in England that his job is no longer needed. These are difficult and painful decisions and that is why there has been negotiation and compromise here in Rio.

The Conventions agreed to at Rio are not the end of the road, but milestones along the road. They launch the process and demand effective follow-up. To that end, the United Kingdom will make additional commitments, including a "Darwin Initiative", to build an inventory of precious habitats, a global technology conference next year to address climate change, and a global forum for non-governmental organizations, to ensure transparency in this process and confirm their role in the implementation of Agenda 21.

At the same time, developing countries need the help of the developed world, with a replenished Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a reduction of debt and an expansion of trade. The threat of nuclear war has faded, but there is a new threat, the slow destruction of the globe. Whatever the differences expressed in Rio, the difference must be expressed as partners.

HELMUT KOHL, Chancellor, Germany: The industrial countries have a particular responsibility in securing environmental protection and sustainable development and are called upon to handle natural resources more carefully than they have in the past. Better use must be made of existing technology and new, environment-friendly technology must be developed. Germany would like to employ the know-how it has gained to assist the developing countries in their development. It will also do its utmost to bring the negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to a successful conclusion.

There must be further steps to reduce greenhouse gases. Germany was the first large industrial country to target a 25 to 30 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2005. That was a signal for a common approach by all industrial countries. Germany welcomes the United States initiative on forests and hopes for the adoption of a forest protection convention. Together with the proposed convention on desertification, it will contribute to preserving the foundations of the planet's existence.

Germany is facing major challenges: an obligation towards 17 million countrymen who decided for freedom and unity; responsibility towards its neighbours in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe; and a responsibility towards the developing countries. Germany is committed to an increase in official development assistance (ODA) and confirms a target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP). In addition, Germany's assistance to its neighbours in the East should be given appropriate consideration. It supports

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the increase in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is prepared to cancel further debts for the benefit of poorer countries in exchange for appropriate environmental protection measures.

CARLOS SAUL MENEM, President of Argentina: The world needs to preserve its natural resources so that the needs of present generations are met without jeopardizing those resources for the future. In certain areas of plenty, consumption has a predatory effect on resources, and that is what is happening today; and in such an interdependent world, even the poor can get caught up in the whirlwind of consumerism.

All this leads to the further depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation. The world is one, and nothing affecting ecosystems is remote. Remote events ultimately affect those far away. However, all multilateral environmental programmes must be directed at the real target: human beings.

An opportunity exists to lay a new foundation for mankind. The United Nations must shoulder its responsibility to promote peace and eliminate armed conflicts, which lead to ecological destruction. Democracy is spreading globally, and mankind is today working together for the common good. Towards that cause, Argentina invites the United Nations to set up a research centre in its southernmost port for the preservation of Antarctica. Efforts are also being stepped up to protect the country's forests.

VIGDIS FINNBOGADOTTIR, President of Iceland: Man has taken himself out of nature, has attempted to manipulate it and make it his slave instead of his partner. The world community is beginning to state the problem and organize itself to act. The questions that have not been answered in Rio will still remain on the world's agenda, simply because they have been raised, and will not disappear until they have been resolved.

Pollution is a global problem. Icelanders, living almost entirely by harvesting the sea, welcome signs that more concerted action will be taken to deal with the most serious threats to the seas, which include persistent organic substances and radioactive waste. They also welcome the commitment made on the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources and the recognition that coastal States should benefit from sustainable harvesting of them.

Regardless of the decisions of the Conference, no lasting and genuine improvement can take place without grass-roots involvement on a global scale. In Iceland, which is home to 0.005 per cent of the world's population, 4 million trees are being planted each year -- equivalent to 16 for every person in the country. Imagine this being done the world over: 80 billion new trees a year. Iceland is changing a sub-Arctic desert into a green land once again. The international community must be aware of self-congratulation, since it is not acting to win praise, but rather to avoid the condemnation of our children and grandchildren who will inherit the earth from us.

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LI PENG, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China: Mankind has made brilliant achievements in transforming nature and developing economies, yet neglect of the environment in the course of industrialization has resulted in global pollution and ecological devastation. The convening of this Conference provides a forum for solving environmental and development problems.

The world is in a period of transition. Thus, the international community has difficulties and challenges, as well as hopes and opportunities. The cold war is over, but conflict has increased and power politics still exists. Developed countries are getting richer, developing countries poorer. All of this demonstrates that the two major issues -- peace and development -- have not yet been resolved. Likewise, to address the global issues of environmental protection and economic development, extensive international cooperation will be required. The Rio Conference and its Conventions should lay a good foundation. Yet, there are still some propositions that needed further discussion.

Economic development should be pursued in parallel with environmental protection. For many developing countries, their primary task is to eliminate poverty, and their reasonable needs should be taken into account as the world tackles the problem of the global environment. Further, while protecting the environment is a common task, economically developed countries must take on a greater responsibility, since they caused most environmental damage during their industrialization and also had the technology to cope with it. In addition, international cooperation should be based on respect for State sovereignty.

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba: An important biological species is disappearing -- man. It deserves mention that the consumer societies are responsible for the atrocious state of the environment. With only 20 per cent of the world's population, it consumes two thirds of its metal and three fourths of the energy. They have poisoned the waters and air and saturated the atmosphere with gases that produce catastrophic effects.

It is not possible to blame the third-world countries, who only yesterday were colonies, for the state of the planet today. The solution to the situation cannot be to prevent the development of those who need it most. Everything that contributes to poverty constitutes a flagrant violation of the ecology. The unequal terms of reference, protectionism and the foreign debt are also an assault on the ecology. There must be a better distribution of wealth and technology in the world.

The transference to the third world of lifestyles and habits that have ruined the environment must be avoided. Let science work towards sustainable development without pollution. The ecological debt should be paid, not the foreign debt. Now, when there are no pretexts for a cold war and military races, what prevents the immediate use of those resources for the ecology? Let this be the end of hegemony, callousness and deceit. Tomorrow it will be too late to do what should have been done a long time ago.

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KENNEDY SIMMONDS, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis: The UNCED presents an opportunity to clearly chart the course for the improvement of the quality of life for all peoples now and in the future, through an integrated, caring and people-oriented approach to sustainable development.

All should leave Rio with a clear commitment to balance the urgency of environmental preservation with the imperatives of human development. Developed countries and multilateral funding agencies must desist from using the environment as an excuse to further stultify the aspirations of developing countries. They should commit additional funds to help those countries meet environmental objectives. Now is the time for donor countries to meet the agreed ODA target.

As a clear indication of its commitment to the principle of sound environmental development, Saint Kitts and Nevis will today sign the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. The latter is critical to the country, and to the whole Caribbean region which is susceptible to the ravages and fury of hurricanes. Island States are vulnerable to the effects of global warming and sea-level rise. Fully implemented, Agenda 21 will produce greater benefits for all people in developing countries. It addresses the major issues related to sustainable development and charts the way to improved living standards in developing countries.

Adequate financial resources for translating the Agenda into tangible actions are imperative. Failure to meet those requirements could lead only to further degradation and unsustainable development. Such resources should be made available on preferential terms, with special concessions for small island developing countries.

ALHAJI DAWADA K. JAWARA, President of Gambia: This Summit offers an historic opportunity to deal with the interrelated issues of environment and development and to lay a foundation for sustainable development. In preparing for the Conference, Africa developed an African Common Position. Among the issues of greatest concern are drought and desertification.

In Gambia, rainfall in the mid-1970s was 1,100 millimetres a year. Today, it has fallen to a mere 650 millimetres a year. Vegetative cover has decreased by 80 per cent in the past 26 years, through grazing, over-cultivation, and exploitation of forests for fuel and timber. Desertification threatens to overwhelm Africa. Thus, it appreciates the support it has received on this issue in Rio.

In Agenda 21, special emphasis must be placed on new and additional resources. The GEF must reflect other environmental concerns, such as drought and desertification. As for ODA, all countries should reach the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP before the end of the century. The UNCED provides a unique opportunity. Here, a solid foundation should be laid for sustainable development. It is the only way to save the earth.

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ABDULAZIZ ABDULGHANI, Vice-President of Yemen: This Conference addresses issues that have been before the world since the Stockholm Conference 20 years ago. Today, the world meets to reaffirm the importance of sustainable development. Industrialization and the race towards production now threaten the survival of mankind. The backwardness of many countries also contributes to pollution. Therefore, a true partnership must be formed with the developing countries to help them develop their resources and protect them from pollution.

Yemen, notwithstanding its limited resources, has established programmes to protect its environment, particularly in its schools and universities. It has acceded to 22 international environmental conventions, and appointed a council to protect the environment. It is also working with neighbouring countries to protect the coast of the Red Sea and adopt strategies on population and the environment. It has, however, encountered a number of economic problems, including the return of more than 1 million expatriates and the suspension of technical assistance following the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Yemen needs international cooperation to supplement its national efforts.

Yemen faces even more pressing concerns, those of industrial and social development. Even so, it has signed the Biodiversity Convention and will soon sign the Climate Change Convention. All must assume a certain responsibility, and the developed countries must assume the largest share. With international cooperation, mankind will be protected from imminent disaster.

Prince Rainier III of Monaco: Although it is a sensitive undertaking to speak on behalf of a region that transcends borders, Monaco represents the concerns of the Mediterranean countries. It presides over more than 20 countries in the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea and voices their serious concerns. The Mediterranean is a microcosm of the issues being discussed at UNCED.

Although it represents only 1 per cent of the earth's surface, it is host to nearly half of the world's marine traffic and more than a third of its tourist traffic. The phenomena of pollution are quickly intensified in the Mediterranean. Eighty per cent of untreated wastes from coastal towns are dumped directly into the Mediterranean. It is also the dumping area for heavy metals, pesticides and oil spills. There is a critical lack of preventive measures, particularly in the south where the problems are exacerbated by a demographic explosion. The Mediterranean and the Black Sea should be designated as regions for high priority action.

Monaco recommends the operational transfer of methodologies and appropriate technologies from North to South; the establishment of real surveillance of the pollution of the seas, with satellite detection and immediate intervention by specialized agencies; a framework convention to protect sensitive ecological zones; and an independent liaison bureau to coordinate and follow the implementation of the conventions concerned with the protection of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Monaco is ready to host such a bureau.

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GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA, Prime Minister of Nepal: Pollution of air and water, industrial and nuclear waste, carbon dioxide emissions, population pressures, deforestation, global warming and soil erosion have distorted the world's climate and threatened to make the planet unfit for life. While the developing countries have their cycle of poverty, underdevelopment, subsistence and environmental deterioration, developed countries have been caught in their own whirlpool resulting in environmental degradation.

While Nepal has taken numerous steps to demonstrate its concern for humanity, it realizes that the major factors at work in the rapid degradation of the environment are beyond its control. The people of Nepal are not major polluters. Development and environmental problems of Nepal are associated with poverty and the country's rugged physical features. Poverty is multi-dimensional and its solution demands internally the collective effort of conscientious people in a free and democratic society and, externally, adequate international understanding and cooperation.

Nepal is interested in managing the fragile ecosystem which addressed sustainable mountain development. Its adverse physical features offer opportunities. For example, snow-fed rivers which are rich sources for both irrigation and clean energy can be harmonized in the spirit of the objectives of the Conference. If development and environmental protection are to be equitably addressed, it is important that environmental protection include positive involvement of the international community in clean development.

BAILEY OLTER, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Forum: As a region, the countries of the Forum have combined exclusive economic zones of more than 30 million square kilometres, more than four times the size of Brazil. Yet, as relatively small islands, with limited resources, their capacity to protect the fragile environment is constrained.

Climate change and sea-level rise caused by global warming are the most serious environmental threats to the islands in the Pacific region. Yet, these islands have not even contributed to the problem. The solution to the problem is not within their capabilities, but with those who purchased their development with the polluted currency others dare not use.

The countries of the Forum strongly support Agenda 21 as a whole and the chapter on oceans in particular. Especially welcome is the decision to call a series of conferences on the sustainable development of small islands. The world's increasing environmental ethic should enable the Pacific region to overcome the attitude of many developed countries that the Pacific is a great, unpopulated void that offers opportunities for the convenient disposal of toxic, radioactive and other harmful waste, as well as for the practice of any dangerous activity that cannot be carried out on home territory. A case in point is Johnston Island, where the United States is carrying out a programme to incinerate stockpiles of chemical weapons shipped from Germany and other regions.

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RAHIM HUSSEINOV, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan: The ecological situation in Azerbaijan has considerably deteriorated over the course of the last few years; the level of atmospheric pollution exceeded by several times the acceptable health levels. The problem of pollution of the Caspian Sea has been aggravated by a catastrophic increase in the level of the sea; shortages in drinking water have become greater because of erosion and other processes. More than half of the national revenue of Azerbaijan comes from agriculture, energy production and oil and mineral industries. And yet, the fact that the export of natural resources remains the main factor of the economy is greatly aggravating economic development problems.

But the desire of the country speedily to achieve transition to a market economy could further aggravate the situation. Today, it is known that all environmental problems which the world is experiencing are made acutely clear and it would be very difficult to resolve them without the help of the world community.

The state of the environment has also worsened because of the four-year-long Armenian aggression. The natural habitat of Azerbaijan has suffered irreparable damage. The use by Armenian guerrillas of chemical and other mass destruction weapons has created dead zones. The escalation of conflicts is leading to the total destruction of the cultural heritage. The implementation of economic and political reforms has been hindered by the flow of hundreds of thousands of refugees deported from Armenia and from the High Karabakh.

Azerbaijan hopes that it will become integrated in the structure of international environmental programmes and will receive voluntary assistance from developed countries, particularly in securing ecologically rational technologies.

GUY WILLY RAZANAMASY, Prime Minister of Madagascar: Astronauts recognize Madagascar from their spacecraft as "a spreading bloodstain on the blue of the Indian Ocean". The country has the melancholy privilege of being known as the most outstanding example of the critical type of erosion called "lavaka" -- huge crevasses that dissect the ground. To this problem is added the drought and desertification afflicting the south, the inevitable consequence of which is famine. Madagascar, therefore, is well acquainted with environmental problems. The policies it has implemented, however, are mainly directed towards saving the country's biodiversity heritage.

Besides Madagascar's internal misfortunes, the Indian Ocean, home to annual cyclones, has become a major route for petrol tankers which wash out their tanks along the country's shores, endangering the marine environment. Madagascar can do nothing about it for lack of means. The country can no longer sustain the weight of its external debt, which holds back all economic and social development. Among the debts are those resulting from saving the environment.

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ARNOLD RUUTEL, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Estonia: During the Stockholm Conference on the Environment, Estonia was an occupied country and could not participate. Despite its early history of environmental and resource protection, five decades of occupation meant a forced strategy for development, including colonial exploitation of natural resources and the environment. Environmentally irresponsible enterprises were established. Environmental protection became a form of protest against the policies of the occupying country.

The withdrawal of foreign military troops from Estonia is its first priority in addressing the legacy of environmental and developmental mismanagement. These troops are illegally in the territory and operate under the laws of Russia. The problems they have caused include air and water pollution; soil and sea sediment contamination; noise pollution; and landscape disfigurement.

Regional cooperation with the Baltic Sea countries is important for Estonia and it has gained considerable experience through working with them in the area of marine environmental protection. Regarding oil shale mining in Estonia, environmentally sound methods must be instituted if mining and processing are to continue. The forest principles addressed in Agenda 21 are of special importance to Estonia.

It must undertake large-scale measures to assess and address the demands of responsible environmental protection and sustainable development. Those efforts will require resources that are currently not in the country. The establishment of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presence in Estonia and a Baltic Trust Fund are of paramount importance.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS, President, Supreme Council of Lithuania: Lithuanians fought for their independence thinking that they would assume full responsibility for the small piece of the planet in which they live. But Lithuania is not yet entirely free. The former Soviet military forcefully occupies, without any legal basis, agreement or permission, an area of over 76,000 hectares, of which some 52,000 are forests. The Government of Lithuania is not permitted to know what these armed forces are doing. It can only perceive an increase in the clearing of forests, in spite of an agreement with the President of Russia that the army would withdraw without delay. The withdrawal has not begun, and yet forests are being cut, petroleum and chemical products burned on military bases, and perhaps even chemical weapons are being dismantled.

Lithuania is in transition to a market economy and it hopes that Agenda 21 will reflect an understanding of its present realities. While the Government understands the needs and concerns of the developing countries, it also seeks a better understanding for its particular circumstances.

Lithuania wishes to fulfil its international environmental obligations but to accomplish that it will need assistance. Alone it cannot guarantee the security of its nuclear plant and it will not be able to extract the mustard

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gas bombs dumped into the Baltic Sea along its coastline by the Soviet army after the Second World War. First and foremost, Lithuania requires complete liberation from a foreign military which pollutes its air and water.

D.F. ANNAN, Vice President of Ghana: Except for issues relating to technology transfer, desertification, financial resources and forestry, much has been achieved at UNCED that meet Ghana's approval. This gathering has the necessary will, not only to adopt the Conventions and protocols, but to create a permanent institution of global partnership in a revitalized and strengthened United Nations Economic and Social Council to oversee the effective implementation of Agenda 21.

Improvement in the world trade regime to minimize the trade losses of developing countries should be the first step towards making them equally capable of meeting the challenges of sustainable development. The enormity of the problems facing them requires that they be given access to new and additional resources, and benefit from the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Debt cancellation would help those countries to play their part meaningfully in any global environmental regime.

The cost of environmentally sound technologies to pursue sustainable development objectives is much higher than developing countries can afford. The United Nations should mandate technology transfer on preferential and concessionary terms, and intellectual and property rights should not hinder such transfers. The greening of the earth and the restoration of the health of its forests must be the responsibility of all countries. Inadequacy of financial resources inhibits faster reforestation and compels further aggressive cutting. African countries call for a convention on desertification and drought to redress the problem that is crucial.

IVAN PLIOUSHCH, Vice-President of Ukraine: Ukraine, an independent State, is today reaping the sad harvest of 70 years of domination by a flawed totalitarian system that was unable to provide food for its people, even on the best black earth in the world. The old regime was a wicked stepmother to all the people subject to it. In the wake of that period, the mortality rate in Ukraine now exceeds the birth rate. Now Ukraine is in transition to a market economy which, when achieved, will also improve the environment as Ukraine would approach sustainable development in a manner that would take into account environmental concerns. At UNCED, it has signed both Conventions and fully supports the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

Ukraine wishes to cast off the shackles of excessive industry. Ukraine, along with the other countries of the former Soviet Union, through their attainment of independence, made a gift to the world of billions of dollars, a sum formerly used for military maintenance. If 20 per cent of those funds were used, they could offset the problems facing countries like Ukraine. The Ukrainian Parliament has promised to rid itself of nuclear weapons and supports the establishment of the Black Sea as a nuclear-free zone.

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The Chernobyl disaster is more than a Ukrainian disaster: it is a global problem. Ukraine by itself could not ameliorate the effects of Chernobyl such as contaminated air, water and soil and complex medical problems. Ukraine, which sympathizes with the victims of ecological disasters, appeals for international sympathy as it observes today a day of national mourning for those who perished in one of its mines.

BRIAN MULRONEY, Prime Minister of Canada: Leaders gathered in Rio must assume their responsibilities to their people, to each other and to history. They must commit their Governments to action. The prevention of global climate change and the preservation of the world's animal and plant species is at the top of the Agenda. Canada is proud to sign both Conventions. Progress has been made, but the success of Rio will come from converting Agenda 21 into concrete accomplishments.

Canada advocates five steps. First, all countries need to develop their own plans for sustainable development, what Canada calls its "Green Plan", and to that end, in response to an invitation by UNDP, will participate in a pilot programme with any nation represented at Rio that wishes to benefit from Canada's experience in this area.

Second, the agreements on climate change and biodiversity require constructive follow-up. Third, resources are needed to ensure that developing countries can play their role. Among other things, Canada is again contributing this year $115 million in assistance to developing countries for forest management and has also decided to eliminate the $145 million ODA debt of Latin American countries by exchanging it for sustainable development projects.

Fourth, multilateral institutions must be part of the solution. With this in mind, the mandate of the acclaimed Canadian International Development Research Centre will be broadened to deal specifically with the environment and related concerns. Fifth, the idea of an earth charter of environmental rights and responsibilities, which slipped beyond the grasp at Rio, should be revived. The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations -- 1995 -- should be the target date for completion of the Charter.

SIDI MOHAMED, Crown Prince of Morocco: Participating in the Rio Conference made one aware of the responsibility to implement a strategy for the survival of mankind. Each country and individual has an elementary responsibility to make a contribution to this process through the Rio Declaration and the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Furthermore, the time has come to take advantage of the peace dividend and use that dividend to support sustainable development. New resources are needed. If they were forthcoming, Agenda 21 could open up a new era of solidarity.

Environment and development could not be reduced to a simple economic equation. It is a problem of civilization and faith. Nature is being degraded heedlessly by man, as seen in ozone layer deterioration, desertification, deforestation, the extinction of animal species, pollution of

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drinking water and the dumping of hazardous wastes. And there is yet another threat, that of galloping population growth. Within these problems is a larger question -- that of the survivability of man on an overpopulated and overpolluted earth.

The vital balance can be assured only if development strategies are changed in method, means and goals. What is needed is a new, ethical world order. The task is one of great scope.

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United Nations

Press Release

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CONFERENCE'S SUMMIT SEGMENT CONTINUES; 22 HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT ADDRESS ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 June -- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development continued this afternoon the two-day summit segment of its proceedings, hearing statements by 22 Heads of State or Government.

The Conference was addressed by the Presidents of the United States, Cape Verde, Mexico, Romania, Latvia, Kenya, Colombia, Nauru, Hungary, Paraguay, Indonesia and Slovenia.

Also addressing the summit were the Prime Ministers of Barbados, Jamaica, Netherlands, Belgium, Mongolia, Croatia, Cook Islands and Ethiopia; the Chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers of Lesotho and the President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau.

In addition, the First Vice-President of Iran and the Vice- Presidents of the Russian Federation, Syria, Dominican Republic and Honduras addressed the meeting.

Statements

GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States: As important as the road to Rio has been, what matters more is the road from Rio. Some say that developed countries cannot cooperate with developing countries, but they should go to Costa Rica where debt for nature swaps are protecting forests. Some say the environment cannot be protected without state control. They should go to Eastern Europe, where the poisoned bodies of children have paid for the sins of fallen dictators. Some say growth and the environment are incompatible. They should visit the United States, where, since Stockholm, the economy has grown by 57 per cent, yet pollution has fallen and the water is cleaner. Some say leaders do not care. They should come to Rio.

The United States has come to Rio with an action plan on climate change and has just signed the Framework Convention. The United States proposes that the signatories to the Convention meet by 1 January 1993 to lay out national plans for meeting the specific commitments in the Convention. The United

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For information media—not an official record

States has also come to Rio to double its global forest assistance. At home, it will phase out clear-cutting and aim at planting 1 billion new trees. The United States also realizes that developing countries will need assistance in achieving clean growth and intends to increase aid to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by 66 per cent from its 1990 level. Efforts aimed at protecting biodiversity will exceed what is called for in the Biodiversity Convention. But, that proposed treaty threatens to undermine the protection of ideas and its financing scheme will not work.

ANTONIO MASCARENHAS MONTEIRO, President of Cape Verde: Centuries of ignorance and, in some cases, deliberate neglect, have produced irreparable damage to the world's flora and fauna and spawned high levels of pollution, with negative effects on the environment. Fortunately, there is today universal consciousness about the grave problems affecting the global environment and the need to adopt corrective measures for the preservation of the planet.

The solution to environmental problems cannot be effectively reached if the developmental needs of developing nations are not taken into account to create minimum living conditions for their peoples. Cape Verde stresses the fundamental importance of the transfer of safe and sound technology to developing countries as a factor of environmental protection. Cape Verde, a Sahelian country, is aware of the negative impact of drought and desertification on the ecosystem and living conditions. Special attention should be paid to this issue, aimed at the adoption of a convention on the subject not later than 1994.

As an archipelago with some low-lying islands, Cape Verde is concerned about the emission of some gases at current levels, the continuation of which will cause some low-lying areas to disappear. By implementing the Climate Change Convention, ways and means should be pursued to reduce such emissions. Collective survival requires a realistic approach to the environment and the contribution of all countries. However, this collective responsibility should be differentiated. Cape Verde pays tribute to non-governmental organizations for their pioneering role in preserving the world environment and encourages their efforts.

HASSAN HABIBI, First Vice-President of Iran: At this historic junction, any confrontational approach that will impair the achievement of the objectives of the Conference should be avoided. The integration of environment and development should be viewed as an essential element for protection of the environment. Wars and armed hostilities have always been major causes of environmental damages. Hence, peace and security are indispensable for protection of the environment. What has happened in the Persian Gulf region, Afghanistan and occupied Palestine territories during the last decade has brought devastating environmental problems. Notably, the environmental consequences of the Persian Gulf conflict are of such magnitude that its rehabilitation calls for international cooperation.

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Protection and rehabilitation of the environment cannot be achieved unless all agree on the principle of equality. The largest share of environmental degradation originates in the developed countries and they should combat environmental problems through recognition and implementation of their proportional responsibilities and commitments. There is need for evolution of international law on sustainable development. Any attempt to draft new international legal instruments should begin with a review of existing laws with the view to incorporate the concerns and interests of the developing world. Transfer of technology, on concessional and preferential terms, as well as provision of new and additional financial resources for developing countries should be a priority.

CARLOS SALINAS DE GORTARI, President of Mexico: Mexico appeals to mankind to advance towards peace with nature and with itself. Here at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), efforts are still under way to solve global problems. Global ecological deterioration is the responsibility of all though the responsibilities are differentiated. Polluted wastes know no border. Not everyone contributes to waste in equal amounts. Only through international cooperation will it be possible to find a solution to the ecological problems that confront the world. Mankind needs to produce, but to produce differently. Access to financial resources and technology is a key aspect to this process. Open trade and access to markets need to be ensured. Above all, there is a need for ecologically sound growth.

Add to sustainable development the concept of global development. The finding that only underdevelopment is sustainable must be avoided. There must be a differentiation between situations that require national measures and those that require global measures. Answers should not be imposed from without but real answers cannot be provided within borders if they did not include real commitments to share in the solution to problems that involve all.

Mexico devotes almost 1 per cent of its gross national product (GNP) to restoring rivers, sea and land. It is attempting to protect its biodiversity which is one of the four richest in the world.

ION ILIESCU, President of Romania: All have become aware of the interdependence of economic growth and the natural resources that are the basis of any living system. This recognition has led to the concept of "sustainable development", an ecological concept with important consequences for the future evolution of the world economy. There is a need to reorient development strategies to ensure global stability and ecological balance.

The deterioration of the environment is mainly the effect of unreasonable patterns of economic growth. Harmony between man and nature means harmony among people, which can be achieved by the promotion of a new model of social development. Human solidarity is needed. All of the problems -- the widening gap between rich and poor, the population explosion, food security, among others -- require a global approach and broad international cooperation.

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Even though the documents coming out of the Rio Conference may not fully meet expectations, they do represent an important step forward. The sooner they are put into operation, the greater their value and impact. Romania's participation in UNCED is due to its concern for economic, political and spiritual renewal. The economic and political reforms under way in Romania are aimed at eradicating the consequences of the oppressive Communist system, which include environmental problems. Romania faces soil erosion, deforestation, air and water pollution and is increasingly concerned by the threat of potential accidents at old and unsafe nuclear reactors.

ANATOLIJS GORBUNOVS, President of Latvia: Upon joining the family of nations, Latvia immediately concentrated on the issues to be taken up by UNCED and on overcoming the crisis caused by 50 years under a totalitarian regime. During the transition period to a market economy, international projects could help as catalysts. However, lack of investment hinders the development of environmental projects, although they do have a high priority.

In Latvia, the "polluter pays" principle is now applied and an effective State monitoring system has to be created. Those who spread disinformation on the environment are now penalized. The network of protected areas is expanding and a plan is being drawn up to protect rivers and water resources. Unfortunately, the magnitude of the problems left behind by the past 50 years cannot be easily solved, in particular the problem of poor water quality in the cities due to improper disposal of municipal waste. Serious environmental degradation is also caused by the troops of the former Soviet Union. To date, only 49 soldiers have left the country. The presence of the Russian troops destabilizes Latvia and the Baltic region. Those troops must withdraw immediately.

The process of disarmament has commenced. Nations should come to an agreement to use that money for the rehabilitation of the environment.

ERSKINE SANDIFORD, Prime Minister of Barbados: Governments should have it at the top of their national agendas to reduce or eliminate poverty, unacceptable privileges and inequalities. The goals of reducing poverty among nations and creating conditions for a just economic order for all countries are vital. There is no other way but through effective international cooperation, through the pooling of commitment, efforts and resources, to build a secure future. The key is sustainable development, one that recognizes the environment as a scarce asset that can be utilized for the benefit of mankind or despoiled for mankind's ruination.

While the commitments which Barbados expected are not evident in the Climate Change Convention, the country signed it because it provides a useful basis for continuing negotiations in the post-UNCED period. Negotiations on specific protocols should commence soon, and the first such protocol should be on the stabilization and reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Small island States have contributed little to the problem of global warming, but will be most adversely affected by its impact, particularly sea-level rise.

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There is need for a fundamental restructuring of the GEF within a truly multilateral context based on the principles of democracy and universality.

PERCIVAL JAMES PATTERSON, Prime Minister of Jamaica: Jamaica calls for a more equitable sharing of the resources of the common heritage of the high seas and the atmosphere. The entry into force of the Third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is as urgent and important to Jamaica as the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Jamaica urges that it receive priority attention.

The environment is being degraded rapidly by the continued inefficient use of energy by the rich countries. Global warming, which has been addressed through the Convention on Climate Change, clearly must be accepted as a priority responsibility by the industrialized countries. One cannot be content with mere good intentions. These must be translated into binding treaty obligations.

The effects of global warming are likely to be felt more directly by small island States, whose coastal areas may become submerged, whose protective coral reefs are threatened, and who will be subject to more frequent and stronger hurricanes. These effects compromise severely the possibilities for sustainable development. The ecologically vulnerable islands and low-lying coastal areas of the Caribbean are subject to all the pressures of urbanization and resource exploitation in small land areas. Jamaica urges that the Caribbean be designated as a special zone with an action plan to protect its fragile but precious ecosystem.

DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, President of Kenya: One of the outcomes of UNCED that Kenya and developing countries await with keen interest is the Earth Charter which will guide conduct in ensuring the future viability of the earth as a hospitable home for human and other forms of life. Kenya subscribes to the principle of non-interference in matters that impinge on the cultural aspects of other nations, believing that the tenets of one culture should not be allowed to set standards of development goals, activities or assistance nor should they be used as a precondition for development assistance. It also believes in the right of nations to exploit and trade in a sustainable and responsible manner the natural resources found within their legal boundaries. The natural resources located outside the legal boundaries of any country, including those in outer space and in the high seas, are mankind's common heritage.

Caught in the classical dilemma of having to exploit the environment in a bid to achieve rapid development, developing nations expect a lot from Agenda 21 to ensure that development efforts do not threaten nature. The abject poverty which characterizes most of the developing countries is a major constraint to the achievement of sustainable development. Kenya calls upon the international community to institute urgent remedial measures geared towards the alleviation of poverty to enable developing countries to play a more positive role in the search for development that does not threaten the environment.

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The developing world has already accepted the notion of shared but differentiated responsibility in fulfilling the tasks ahead, and calls on its colleagues from the North to reciprocate in tackling environmental problems.

ELIAS PHISOANA RAMAEMA, Chairman of the Military Council and Council of Ministers of Lesotho: There is a fundamental question that must be asked: How can today's needs be satisfied without adversely affecting the needs of future generations, in a world where abject poverty in the South contrasted with the affluence of the North? Urgent measures must be taken to make the North's consumption patterns more sustainable and to eradicate poverty in the South. This should be the supreme goal of the Rio Conference.

The current drought situation in eastern and southern Africa has economic and environmental implications. All affected countries are mobilizing their resources to provide food, medical supplies and drinking water. But, their resources are limited and international assistance is needed. In Lesotho, the struggle against environmental degradation is a struggle for survival and must be tackled in an integrated manner.

Lesotho is the coordinator of environment and land management of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which produced the report entitled "Sustaining Our Common Future" as a contribution to the preparatory process of this Conference. It emphasizes expanding environmental assessment and reporting, as the region moves towards sustainable development. With this report in mind, the international community might find justification for extending increased assistance to the region, particularly in the areas of environmental planning and management.

R.F.M. LUBBERS, Prime Minister of the Netherlands: Agenda 21 demonstrates that the issues are complex, but the focus on sustainable development is the right one. The question of finance is not settled, but the answer must be finance. It will hurt those in the developed countries and it will be a difficult argument for those political leaders to make, but there is reason to be optimistic. The Netherlands, in addition to its current commitments, which substantially exceed 0.7 per cent of GNP for development assistance, will provide new financial resources up to a maximum of another 0.1 per cent of GNP for the implementation of global environmental agreements.

Sustainable development can enlarge the concept of the United Nations. An economic and ecologic dimension must be added to the concept of security. In this, the developed countries have a special responsibility, because of the strain they put on the world's resources. As an example of the relationships that can be successfully forged, the Netherlands, Costa Rica and Bhutan have signed an agreement for an experiment in sustainable development.

In 1989, it was decided to make sustainable development the focus of Dutch policy. Patterns of consumption and the disposal of waste must be examined. More efficient use of resources is required. All subsidies that encourage inefficient production and inefficient use of energy must be ended. The "polluter pays" principle should be applied on a global scale.

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CESAR GAVIRIA TRUJILLO, President of Colombia: The Rio Declaration has established a basis for future ethics and international environmental law. The Convention on Biodiversity guarantees the right of developing countries to share the dividends of their biodiversity. Agenda 21 sets up a working programme that will serve to coordinate actions on a global scale. Unfortunately, the Climate Change Convention does not establish the basis for the transfer of technology or the definition of concrete targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Not only are the contributions of the industrialized countries insufficient to finance Agenda 21, but they also concentrate on the global environment, setting aside the themes that are crucial to development schemes.

The major environmental problems of the earth were not invented by the developing countries. If the responsible nations do not find a way to fulfil their obligations to the planet and modify their lifestyles, the planet will bill all nations, rich and poor. Colombia is one of those nations privileged to have a biological "megadiversity", but it suffers from many of the processes of environmental degradation. Today, 25 million hectares of Amazonia and other parts of the country are protected by law and the Congress is considering a project to create a Ministry for Environment. Colombia also wishes to establish an Institute of Advanced Studies for the Amazon basin.

BERNARD DOWIYOGO, President of Nauru: The people of the world are watching the Earth Summit with great hope. It is up to world leaders to make that hope burn brighter. They must be able to tell the people that their hopes and aspirations will become a reality; that the process begun at Rio will lead to a cleaner, better and more prosperous and safe world for all. Statesmen must show the way to a better environment and development.

Nauru has signed the Conventions on Climate Change and Biological Diversity. These Conventions do not contain strong commitments, and Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration are not all everyone might have hoped; but they signify clearly that nations are for the first time sitting down together to consider collectively serious and important problems of environment and development at the global level, and the two Conventions provide a framework in which further commitment and progress can be evolved.

JEAN-LUC DEHAENE, Prime Minister of Belgium: The world has become aware that the environment cannot be dealt with in isolation. Changing the world to one of sustainable development is a considerable challenge. More than politics is involved; the concept must take root in the individual and collective consciousness.

Science has taught the world that among the worst environmental problems, there are those that require global efforts. All States should sign and ratify the Climate and Biodiversity Conventions. To supplement the Climate Convention, Belgium has made the commitment to reduce it emission level by 5 per cent by the year 2000. Belgium also supports the European "ecotax", which will help eliminate polluting sources of energy and encourage industry to use products less harmful to the environment.

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Agenda 21 will require additional financing. The preparatory process has showed that conventions are only the first step. New conventions will have to be negotiated, in particular on reforestation and desertification. In addition, consideration should be given to making damage caused to the environment a crime. Governments must integrate environmental considerations in political decisions. All of this will be a "dead letter", however, if there is not a change in attitude. Furthermore, sustainable development will remain an empty slogan as long as millions live in destitution. There is still a cruel gap between rich and poor. Belgium is prepared to modify those structures that give rise to this imbalance.

ARPAD GONCZ, President of Hungary: Unforeseeable radical changes have taken place over the last two years in the post-Communist countries, Hungary among them, which now have to face not only the problems of the technological and infrastructure gap, the economic recession and social tensions accompanying the transition process, but also the tragic environmental legacy of the former regime. Their evolution towards a market economy, preceded by the establishment of democratic institutions is unique and not like the development of the economically advanced countries.

Hungarians are united in their recognition that environmental considerations must be included in the development policy and that they must cure the damages caused by the fundamentally flawed environmental policies of the past decades. Hungary, though small in size, also attaches great importance to the global problems of the environment. It will sign the Climate Change Convention and the Biodiversity Convention. Within the Carpathian Basin, the territory of Hungary comprises different bio-geographical botanical and zoological regions and subregions. The relatively intact biological diversity stemming from this situation is unique in the East European region and Hungary calls for its protection.

Hungary would like to see the development of existing legal and institutional mechanisms of global and regional cooperation. This would enable environmental considerations to influence economic, social and scientific programmes too. Follow-up institutions are needed to determine the global and regional activities resulting from the Rio Conference.

DASHIIN BYAMBASUREN, Prime Minister of Mongolia: The history of man is the history of man and nature. The harmony between man and nature has become a prerequisite for the survival of mankind. Unfortunately, the environment has deteriorated to the point that mankind's survival is in question.

The process of political restructuring in Mongolia is in full swing. That major effort is dedicated to developing in harmony with nature. Mongolia is the watershed of Asia and must preserve this heritage and system for the region and all humanity. Moreover, a country could not develop in a manner that was contrary to its nature. The policy of urbanization of the past decades has resulted in deterioration of pastures, soil degradation and desertification.

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Ecological deterioration affects all countries. Respect for the earth should be a universal ideal of mankind. To strengthen that ideal, an international series of ecological model territories should be established. Mongolia should be included as a special biosphere zone. The Charter of the United Nations begins, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". There must be action to save succeeding generations from the dangers of ecological catastrophe.

JOAO BERNARDO VIEIRA, President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau: The planet is threatened by all types of catastrophes. Nations should agree on concerted action to save biodiversity, end pollution and use their natural resources wisely. But there will be no success unless certain vital issues are tackled, among which are the need to reverse the flow of funds from South to North, the need for sustainable development and new patterns of consumption. A new order in relations with nature among men must be established. There must be a partnership among nations, with Agenda 21 as the blueprint. The environment must be improved without sacrificing development.

It is necessary to have commitments between industrialized and developing countries, to implement Agenda 21 as well as the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Guinea-Bissau suffers from many problems, and its growth is threatened because of the struggle to survive on a daily basis. It has defined strategies for development which bring in the ecological dimension.

At each stage of evolution, humanity has always managed to act and meet the challenges before it. The UNCED will be an historical turning-point after which nations should work to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

FRANJO GREGURIC, Prime Minister of Croatia: Peace must be restored to the environment and the human beings living in the country. The military of Serbia-Montenegro, in addition to killing people and destroying the cultural treasure, is intent on inflicting lasting damage to the environment. An ecological war is also being waged on the country, including the destruction of the river Sava by huge quantities of chemicals and oil spilled into it from the wanton destruction of industrial plants along the river bank. In spite of its sad wartime reality, Croatia is looking forward to the post-war era of renewal and development under conditions of democracy and market economy. A good deal of planning is based on the care for the natural environment as a fundamental value.

The important achievements of Croatia in the area of environment protection will be given new impetus under the conditions of newly won sovereignty. It will continue to participate in and contribute to efforts aimed at solving regional global ecological problems. It counts on international help to save and protect the natural and cultural heritage of Croatia.

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Croatia proposes agreement on an international convention prohibiting any war operations likely to cause disasters, and the creation of a United Nations body, analogous to the Security Council, able to take efficient actions to protect and improve the state of the environment and to take steps if the attacking party makes the natural and cultural heritage a part of its war objectives.

A.V. RUTSKOY, Vice-President of the Russian Federation: It is time to learn to think in an ecological manner and to solve the two-fold problem -- preservation of nature and development for all people.

The new Russian society is in a period of ecological glasnost. The people of Russia must know the truth about the environmental destruction done to the country and the ecological catastrophes, including Chernobyl. In that way, practical conclusions could be drawn from history. Development must not take place at the expense of the environment, since it is not the Government that pays for ecological mistakes, but the people. The Russian Federation is stepping up its activities, setting up new ecological structures and performing various ecological inspections throughout the country.

Ecological catastrophes know no boundaries. Precisely because of this, the world needs constant global environmental monitoring, including the use of satellites. Russia has a certain amount of experience in this area and is willing to share it with the world community. It should be possible to establish an ecological early-warning system, in which the United Nations system should play a key role. Among the other ideas that could be implemented are an international convention on emergency ecological assistance; the prevention of ecological catastrophes; an exchange of ecological technology; and the establishment in the United Nations of an agency to help create an environment-friendly chemical industry, a chemical version of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

ANDRES RODRIGUEZ, President of Paraguay: Ways and means must be established, both nationally and internationally, to reverse the destruction of ecosystems and to enable humanity to live in harmony with nature. After Rio, the subject of dialogue should be to free people from poverty, and nature from over-exploitation. Past production and exploitation activities in Paraguay did not take into account the environmental factor. The continuation of those predatory activities will lead to deforestation, polluted waters and soil erosion. Thus, new policies are being implemented for the proper preservation of the ecosystem and the better utilization of natural resources. Also, there is more order in the way the land is used. Controlling pollution, the result of urbanization and industrialization, will have limited success if there is no sustainable development.

Paraguay is promoting research in the development of human resources, which is needed to achieve the rational use of natural wealth. Paraguay reaffirms the need for honest and productive dialogue between developed and developing countries, leading to genuine cooperation. It urges the international community to incorporate the principle of shared responsibility

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in the quest for environmental solutions. It calls for a more just world order where trade relations will narrow the gap between rich and poor, where protectionism is eliminated and agricultural prices are fair. Developing countries need additional financial resources without conditions.

President SOEHARTO of Indonesia: The integration of environment and development is central to the purpose of the Conference. However, the ability of the developing countries to tackle global environmental tasks will ultimately depend on a supportive economic environment. If not, the burden of this environmental responsibility will be unfairly shifted to the South. In Indonesia, the interaction among environment, development and population is a cornerstone of national policy. Indonesia has learned to be concerned not only with population growth rates but also with the levels of education and the skills and capabilities people acquire.

Development has many facets, but it is primarily an economic endeavour comprising the pursuit of material wealth, of income and earning capacity. Aware of the link between development and environment, Indonesia still believes that when a country is able to intensify its development, it will also be able to preserve its environment. Therefore, a major objective of international cooperation should be to enable developing countries to reach self-sustained growth and sustainable development within the shortest possible time.

One means to that end would be for developing countries to obtain better and more equitable prices for their commodities, prices that reflect both the environmental and resource renewal costs. The colonial heritage must be abandoned whereby developing countries are relegated to the function of mere plantation economies. A new global partnership must be forged, not only by adopting a global environmental programme, but also by establishing new trade, investment and other relationships.

GEOFFREY A. HENRY, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands: Perhaps nowhere else is the close relationship between man, the environment and development more clearly defined than in small island countries. While intensely romantic and paradisiacal to some, for the inhabitants of the Cook Islands, the restrictions and fragility of the natural environment are a daily reality. So too is the threat of global warming and its attendant threats, especially sea-level rise. Some have stressed the lack of scientific certainty as a justification for not taking action. That, however, is a convenient excuse for procrastination. The United States National Academy of Science, hardly a group of "radical greenies", has concluded that the rising level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, a major contribution to global warming, requires urgent attention. The Cook Islands cannot afford to wait for conclusive evidence of sea-level rise.

It has been a grave disappointment that the efforts of the vast majority of members of the international community have been thwarted in their attempt to establish targets for greenhouse gas emissions. The Cook Islands is also disappointed that some countries have indicated that they will not become

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party to the Biodiversity Convention.

Agenda 21 is the most comprehensive compilation of research, training and other activities that must be carried out if the world's environmental and developmental problems are to be solved. In this regard, the Cook Islands offers to host the 1993 first global conference for small island States to discuss in detail sustainable development and its implementation.

ABDUL-HALIM KHADDAM, Vice-President of Syria: The war waged on nature by some human beings through industrialization subjects all mankind to the lethal consequences. Syria, located along part of the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, a semi-closed sea, faces serious problems of pollution conveyed by industrial countries through their military and commercial fleets that sail the Mediterranean.

Syria is facing difficulties in trying to protect its environment and to avoid the damages and risks caused by environmental deterioration. These difficulties stem primarily from Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the growth of Israel's military capacities, which includes factories that produce weapons, in addition to its huge stockpiles of various kinds of advanced and highly sophisticated land, maritime and air weapons. The Israeli aggression forces Syria to appropriate a large part of its resources to defence which, in turn, curtails its capacity to achieve economic and social development, and to provide resources for the protection of nature.

Because of their heavy responsibility for the harmful materials they pour into nature, the industrial countries must provide substantial aid to achieve development in the third world, and an appropriate part of their resources to help eliminate the damage inflicted on nature.

The failure of States to reach specific formulas to bridge the gap between the developing and developed countries, and to adopt agreements to protect nature, will lead to unsound regional and international situations.

JANEZ DRNOVSEK, President of Slovenia: Slovenia, because of its location in the southern part of Central Europe, has been forced to cope with various environmental problems. In dealing with environmental protection, it is building on three foundations -- first, the awareness of a people who have at their disposal a relatively small space; second, diverse legal instruments, contemporary standards and appropriate environmental technology, which is, unfortunately, extremely costly; and third, international connections on ecological issues.

Slovenia has moved forward on these environmental issues, even as it undergoes a transition to a parliamentary democracy and a free market economy. In a broader sense, however, war and violence are destroying life in the middle and southern parts of the former Yugoslavia. In the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, women and children are being killed every day and those who escape are turned into refugees. Month after month, the air is being polluted, and towns are engulfed in the smoke of fire, shells and

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bombs. Rich soil is being devastated and the Adriatic Sea is being turned into a war zone.

The international community must stop this war. An even larger ecological disaster could occur if one of the large chemical factories in Bosnia is destroyed. Only when this kind of violence is eliminated will the international community be able to implement the demanding tasks it has taken in Rio.

TAMIRAT LAYENE, Prime Minister of Ethiopia: The legacy left to the transitional Government is a country devastated by three decades of war, where ill-conceived economic policy and inconceivable abuse of human rights prevailed. The responsibility assumed was not only to bring the 30-year war to an end while avoiding total disintegration of the country, but also the institution of democracy and the guarantee of peace to usher economic recovery and development.

The economic, social and financial problems of developing countries are global, and global solutions are needed. The heavy debt burden of such States, including Ethiopia, and the increasing poverty of the people can hardly be effectively addressed without international cooperation. Technical, financial and material support are needed for sustained economic development. Ethiopia believes the world community will assist it in the implementation of environmentally sound sustainable development so that it will not be left prisoners of these concepts.

Ethiopia has not only been adversely affected by political misrule but also by natural disasters associated with recurrent drought whose impact has been especially devastating to peasant and pastoralist communities which constitute the overwhelming majority of the productive population.

The question of desertification is an urgent issue for Ethiopia. There is need for a convention on desertification to give the issue the proper attention it rightfully deserves. In reconciling the imperative duty of maintaining a healthy environment that permits sustainable development geared towards equity and the improvement in the quality of life, Ethiopia is willing to hold hands with all concerned in the quest for progress.

CARLOS MORALES TRONCOSO, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic: Today, millions faced growing poverty and malnutrition and those same people -- every people -- have the right to sustainable development. More than good intentions are needed. It will require political will and a realistic and practical plan of action.

Great resources are required and all must contribute. Even so, not everyone has the same capability to contribute and not everyone shares the same responsibility for destruction of the environment. All of these efforts must be geared to narrowing the social divide and such an objective can only be achieved through a set of principles adopted by the entire international community. The Dominican Republic is prepared to contribute with concrete

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action to the quality of life on the planet. The era of waste is over. Financial resources and technology are needed for the developing world, because only with environmentally sound technology will the developing countries be able to help in this effort to save the environment.

Precisely 500 years ago, in the Dominican Republic's capital, the conquest and colonization of America began. Regardless of how the consequences are interpreted, it was an historical turning point. Today, the situation is becoming more complicated, since the island is shared with Haiti, a country going through a period of poverty and ecological devastation. Agricultural development projects in Haiti could have effects on both countries. The Dominican Republic is taking measures to preserve its environment and is prepared to participate in a global alliance for a healthier planet. It is willing to do this because poverty and marginalization are the principal insults to mankind's dignity.

ROBERTO MARTINEZ LOZANO, Vice-President of Honduras: In approaching the start of a new millennium, there are great uncertainties as well as firm hope. Mankind is aware of the need to stop fratricidal struggles and wars of conquest to strengthen peace and guarantee the well-being of nations. In managing the environment, there are no borders which separate nor intrigues which divide; all are one. Achieving the appropriate environment will require the active participation of all groups in society. Only with such participation, in the appropriate environment, can there be a society of solidarity for present and future generations.

In recent years, Honduras has worked for peace in Central America and to consolidate democracy. It is therefore better prepared to tackle poverty and underdevelopment and build a solid economy based on social justice, freedom and democracy. The country has thus been able to undertake priority tasks related to the environment. The process of the degradation of the country's natural resources is evident in the shortage of drinking water, deforestation, soil erosion and other factors, and should remain a basic concern for Hondurans.

The Government is directing its efforts towards three strategic projects: the creation of a consensus to harmonize political, economic and social interests to confront the contradictions between the use of natural resources and their exploitation; the creation of the necessary legal instruments to coordinate action in the public and private sector; and the development of an action plan on education.

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United Nations

Press Release

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TWENTY-THREE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT ADDRESS SUMMIT SEGMENT OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANERIO, 13 June -- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development began this morning the second and final day of its Summit segment, hearing statements by 23 Heads of State or Government.

Addressing the Conference were the Presidents of Peru, Central African Republic, Bolivia, Senegal, Nicaragua, United Republic of Tanzania, France, Chile, Bulgaria and Zimbabwe; and the Amir of Kuwait.

Other speakers were the Prime Ministers of Pakistan, Sweden, Mauritania, Djibouti, Korea, Swaziland, Norway and Ireland; the President of the Government of Spain; the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus; and the Federal Chancellor of Austria.

In addition, the Secretary of State of the Holy See made a statement to the Conference.

Statements in Summit Segment

MOHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF, Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chairman of the "Group of 77" developing countries: The fundamental cause of the present economic and environmental crisis is an unjust world economic order that has contributed to gross imbalances between North and South. "Agenda 21" is not simply a list of demands by developing countries, but a navigational chart to lead from the present hazardous state into an economic and environmental situation which is both equitable and sound. The era of sustainable development must not create new conditionalities for developing countries, which must not be denied the right to choose their own growth strategies. The success of these strategies will depend on the transfer, preferential terms and environmentally sound technology.

Among the issues relating to the environment, perhaps the ugliest scar is the abject poverty of over a billion people. Its eradication can only be

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dealt with by a more equitable distribution of resources, and less wasteful production and consumption patterns in the developed countries. Developing countries must limit population growth to manageable levels. The provision of adequate financial resources is the essential condition for attaining the objectives agreed to at this Summit.

The Summit must agree to cooperate collectively to banish the inequality in the international economic order so that development and environmental needs of developing countries are met; environmentalize development and resolve to eradicate poverty; resolve to enhance people's consciousness on the need to reverse the degeneration of the environment; and forge a partnership of trust and confidence to work together to reconstruct the frayed relationship between the activities of mankind and the prerogatives of nature.

CARL BILDT, Prime Minister of Sweden: Two decades ago there was a tendency to see a contradiction between growth and the environment and to look with suspicion at new technologies. There was also a corresponding tendency to think that only planned economies could cope with the challenges ahead. Now, it is understood that economic growth can alleviate the poverty that is both a cause and consequence of environmental degradation and that free trade among all nations is one of the best ways to promote that growth.

These -- the lessons of free society, of free economies and of free trade -- are lessons that are now gradually becoming part of the new international environmental consensus. When all the environmental concerns are taken into account, growth is "green", and policies to promote growth will bring a greener future. The needed policies are understood: an early conclusion to the Uruguay Round; reforms to make markets more responsive to environmental concerns; a shift to production technologies that conserve natural resources.

Official development assistance (ODA) also has a complementary role to play. The goal of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) in ODA should be a moral duty for the rich countries. Sweden provides a substantial amount more than that and is proud of that fact. The financial demands will be substantial in the years ahead. Sweden is ready to make its contribution towards meeting the goals of the Conference by stabilizing emissions of carbon dioxide through use of a carbon dioxide tax and making further efforts to develop expertise in the field of earth observation satellites, in addition to substantial ODA efforts.

JABER AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AL-SABAH, Amir of Kuwait: The Koran warns against people who speak well but who, when they have left your presence, commit vicious acts. This was a warning against human behaviour. This Conference -- and the high level of the participants -- is an indication of the seriousness of the purpose. The ultimate goal must be to ensure a clean and healthy planet for present and future generations. Joint efforts are more important now than ever before and Kuwait is willing to contribute to that effort.

Recently, Kuwait was the theatre of the greatest ecological catastrophe in memory. Only God knows the extent of the damage. The point is that

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natural disasters can be analysed and confronted with the same energy. While there are many environmental problems, the most serious are man-made. The international community should adopt legal instruments that make the deliberate destruction of an ecosystem a crime against mankind. As for development, Kuwait has already made enormous contributions, one of the highest in percentage terms in the world.

Further, Kuwait had launched a world-wide appeal to eliminate not only the interest on debt, but the debt principles of developing countries. Those developing countries needed aid. They should not suffer further depletion of their limited resources as they try to protect the environment.

SIDI MOHAMED OULD BOUBACAR, Prime Minister of Mauritania: Together with other Sahelian countries, Mauritania, has faced, for more than two decades, the terrible wave of drought and its corollary, desertification. In the battle against desertification, the country began, in 1985, a process of structural adjustment centred on a market economy and involving the participation of the population in the economic, social and political life of the country. The recent setting up of democratic institutions and ambitious programmes for the development of human resources and the fight against poverty are important pillars of that policy.

As to questions of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development, the responsibility is common, although the distribution of the burdens differ. Developed countries are responsible for most of the degradation of the environment, but developing countries also have a responsibility for regional and local manifestations of degradation, among which are deforestation, poor stewardship of natural resources, the low level of participation of the population and investments in basic infrastructure such as drinking water, education and health.

Industrialized countries have a moral obligation to implement measures to safeguard the world ecosystem. Developing countries require additional financial resources to stimulate growth and diversity and widen production; transfer efficient eco-technologies; and integrate education, health and the fight against poverty into strategies to protect the ecosystems. An international agreement on desertification should be taken up as soon as possible, to underscore the relevance of existing legal instruments.

BARKAT GOURAD HAMADOU, Prime Minister of Djibouti: This Summit is of particular importance for the whole of humankind, as it concerns itself with the long-term survival of the planet. But interest in the Summit comes from more than the particular issues with which it is concerned. After all, how could a politician from a region where drinking water itself causes death not be interested in the global rise in temperature?

The major interest, however, came from seeing the rich and the poor discussing the world's problems. By focusing on the long-term survival of the earth, the rich countries have become aware that they also have to deal with the short-term issues of survival for the countries in the South. Thus, the primary result of the Conference will be the recognition by the industrialized

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countries that it is not possible to dissociate the problems of poor countries from their ecologic and economic interests.

This Conference has already created awareness. It should also start a new relationship between the North and South. One of the major problems in that relationship is debt. Eliminating the debt burden would truly prove that environment and development cannot be separated. As Indira Gandhi said, the greatest pollution is poverty.

ALBERTO FUJIMORI FUJIMORI, President of Peru: Peru is one of the largest forested countries in the world, with tremendous ecological resources. It is not a poor country but rather one that has been impoverished by years of an inefficient and corrupt system. The current transitory political regime will allow the country to stabilize and reap the benefits of its vast resources.

A major concern for Peru is that it is the largest producer of the coca leaf, the principal ingredient in the manufacture of cocaine. The cultivation of the coca plant is responsible for the deforestation of large tracts of land in Peru. Two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand farmers are engaged in growing the coca leaf, as it is the only product with an assured market. This is not a problem for the year 2000; it is a problem for today.

Peru is concerned about the depletion of the ozone layer and the emission of greenhouse gases, but the environment must be protected from the ecological catastrophe that will derive from the coca plant. Offers of help from the industrial countries should not be considered as handouts. The North must give up its passive attitude and reverse the failure of the anti-drug programme. This will cost money that the developing countries do not have. The battle against drugs is costly, but the world will pay for it later on if the investment is not made now.

In Peru, the most important environmental battle will be the war against the drug trade. That battle will be won only if the wealthy countries become aware of the dangers that drugs pose to them, particularly the threat to their youth.

ANDRE KOLINGBA, President of the Central African Republic: The hopes engendered are enormous, as will be the disappointment if those expectations are not met. The meeting here -- on the five-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Columbus -- is no coincidence. Following this arrival, a civilization was built in the North that has been called "progress". In the tropics, it was easier, with survival through hunting and fishing and with more attention paid to conserving the resources necessary for survival. Now, the world is faced with trying, once again, to normalize its relationship with nature.

Of course, it is not just a question of individuals. The people of the South are accused of not having benefited fully from their resources, which in truth means that the North wants to develop the resources. They can respond that the wealth those countries accumulated had already been taken from common sources. The developing countries must concentrate on the problems of health,

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poverty, hunger and the education of the population. This must be done without endangering the environment, which thus far has been spared. They need help from the developed countries, but such help cannot be provided through unilateral assistance. It must be carried out through a type of cooperation that respects dignity.

JAIME PAZ ZAMORA, President of Bolivia: There can be no preservation of the environment when a predator such as man is in the centre of nature. For that reason, the preservation of man is the new name for human development. Environmental preservation and human development cannot be at the expense of people's culture. Bolivia -- a country that enshrines its indigenous people -- proposes, in conjunction with other countries, to set up a fund for the development of the indigenous people of Latin America and the Caribbean. The indigenous populations are the access to and natural protagonist for an authentic policy of sustainable development.

A great deal has been said about cleaning up the planet, but for this to occur, it is necessary first to cleanse the mind. Human development and the preservation of the environment presuppose that mankind adopt a new way of living, thinking and organizing. To reverse the deteriorating environment, there must be a new attitude towards life. Man must first change himself and review the criteria that have prevailed over the years.

Financial debt is a recognized obligation with debtors and creditors. In terms of the ecological debt, the South is the creditor and the representatives of the industrial North are the debtors. The international community must make every effort to ensure that the twenty-first century does not become a century of violent ecological warfare.

ABDOU DIOUF, President of Senegal: Mankind is destroying the environment and threatening the planet. To change the situation, it is necessary to go to the heart of the problem. The worsening poverty and destruction of the environment are part of the same process, certain manifestations of which are desertification and urban shantytowns. Many countries, particularly in Africa, are affected by desertification. More than 55 per cent of Africa is arid or semi-arid land, and two thirds of the world's refugees are from Africa. Senegal, a Sahelian country, supports the drafting of a convention on desertification in Africa.

Senegal is using solar energy to win the energy battle. The twenty-first century must produce another energy revolution, that of solar energy. Senegal expects commitments from UNCED to act to protect the environment and promote development. Youth must be given confidence in the future; their right to speak, to work and to housing must be recognized. Youth must play a role in protecting the environment.

Everyone must assume responsibility for the future. This calls for changes in North-South relations, and the removal of inequalities. Senegal urges a new era of global partnership to eliminate poverty and to protect the

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environment. Attention should be given to the accumulation of arms, which could lead to an apocalypse, and to human rights. There can be no lasting peace as long as there is great divisions between populations.

WON-SHIK CHUNG, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea: In the past in the Korean development process, much greater emphasis was placed on the quantitative rather than qualitative growth in an effort to industrialize the nation. It is now facing considerable environmental deterioration resulting from the pursuit of accelerated development undertaken without due attention to the environment. The Korean experience should serve as a lesson to both the developed and developing countries. Korea has strengthened environmental measures to improve the quality of life and to accommodate international environmental standards.

Despite its considerable impact on industry, Korea acceded to the Montreal Protocol in February 1992 to join the international efforts for the protection of the global environment. However, the expansion of industry and trade, as well as a resultant increase of energy consumption, is essential for rapid economic growth. This is an inevitable development stage already experienced by developed countries. The special situation of countries like Korea, heavily dependent on external economies, should be duly considered so as not to affect their development potential.

Korea proposes that the leaders of north-east Asia make joint efforts to establish a regional institution for environmental cooperation. The proliferation of narrow regional interests should be avoided.

Korea has a unique ecological reservoir ironically inherited from the cold war, -- the demilitarized zone in the middle of the Korean peninsula. Devoid of any human habitation over the past 40 years, the demilitarized zone has been transformed into an unusual area, characteristically accommodating temperate biological diversity. Korea proposes that a joint survey of the ecosystem in the region be carried out by South and North Korea in close collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations.

OBED DLAMINI, Prime Minister of Swaziland: The international community is at the crossroads of a new era for development. The challenges lie in the implementation of strategies and using them to change from the current path of development to one that is sustainable and long-lasting. Changes are required in the patterns of consumption and the exploitation of natural resources in the name of development.

Swaziland is experiencing problems of a high population growth rate, poor water and sanitation facilities, overgrazing and soil erosion, all of which have a potential to affect the environment. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has paid attention to these issues. The country is also experiencing the most severe drought in its history. Assistance is needed urgently to alleviate human suffering. Swaziland is pleased at the consensus raised at UNCED on the need for a convention on desertification and drought.

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There is a need for a new economic order, but with it goes financial implications. Swaziland is very conscious of the role of women in development, and the theme of its fifth United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country programme is "women and development". The UNCED has accorded the same importance to the role of women in its Agenda 21. Swaziland appeals for political will on the part of world leaders to preserve the environment. All should come together and speak with one voice to save the planet. Only through global partnership can all the problems be tackled.

FELIPE GONZALEZ, President of Spain: Twenty years have gone by since Stockholm. Since then, compatibility between environment and development has been placed at the heart of the problems of the times.

The problem is not just one of the future. Today, poverty is a cause and consequence of the degradation of the environment. In other countries, environmental problems were due to patterns of production and consumption, particularly the consumption of energy. Developing countries could not be asked to stabilize their use of resources, while those who created the problems took care of only their own well-being, without doing anything about the problems. Some of these problems might seem to be a luxury to those who are struggling for survival.

Two thirds of the genetic resources in the world are found in the developing world, and the developed world has created a substantial industry based on those resources. This patrimony must be ended, while the conservation of those resources must be assured. Environment and development are intimately linked. The problems cannot be solved alone. Isolated approaches will not work. It will be useless to divide up the world into bands, trying to place blame. The problem is global. The solution must be global. Spain has a great understanding of the efforts made by developing countries. During the last decade, it tripled its aid to developing countries. In this decade, it aims to triple it again.

STANISLAV S. SHUSHKEVICH, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus: This Conference shows the profound alarm all feel about the planet earth. Belarus is a young, democratic State that has been re-born on the map of the world. Who would have thought that the State that for most of this century held aloft a banner for the oppressed, would have led to the holocaust of the twentieth century -- Chernobyl. Belarus had no nuclear energy facilities on its territory, but it had been rained on by more than two thirds of the radioactive ash from the disaster. As a result, over the last five years there has been a twenty-fold increase in thyroid cancers in women and children.

Belarus is taking several steps during its transition, among them implementing nuclear-free status; using clean technology in its transition to a market economy; and sharply reducing military expenditures. However, a country in transition, already facing the costs of Chernobyl, needs outside help. Feelings of hopelessness must be changed to a positive attitude that can face the future.

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FRANZ VRANITZKY, Federal Chancellor of Austria: It is impossible to separate economic development from global environment issues. Poverty is the cause as well as the effect of global environmental problems. This is a chance to reverse the trend. Nations must take this chance in the conviction that protection of the environment, economic development and economic prosperity are not mutually exclusive or contradictory, but are two sides of the same coin.

Most of the real threats to the environment transcend political boundaries, even continents. Many are national in cause, but global in impact. Countries must learn to formulate and to view national policies as part of the world community's response to a global problem, on the basis of shared responsibility and a pooling of all creative capacities.

Sustainable development is indivisible. If taken seriously, it offers the opportunity for a joint learning process of global dimension. A solution to the energy problem is one of the central questions. New energy policies must be found which aim at minimizing the demand for energy and at the increased use of renewable sources of energy. Nuclear energy is not a viable option in the fight against the greenhouse effect and the related threat to the world climate. Austria thus supports the introduction of a carbon dioxide tax on fossil sources of energy as well as on nuclear energy.

Austria has earmarked an additional amount of 200 million schillings for bilateral projects geared towards the protection of the tropical rain forest and towards the support of its inhabitants.

VIOLETA BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO, President of Nicaragua: It is a special privilege to participate in this Conference, as a President, as a woman and as a world citizen. Nicaragua, for its part, is adopting policies that will bequeath to its children a more viable, habitable and just world. Nicaragua has suffered from political trials, which have impeded its development. Having overcome the ravages of war, it is now assuming its rightful vocation of peace, democracy and development. The support of the international community is vital for the preservation of democracy, to allow countries like Nicaragua to assume their commitments to environment and development.

In Central America, seven countries are the custodians of great biodiversity -- a biological bridge between two continents and two oceans. A Central American policy has been initiated to establish a regional system of protected areas. Just one week ago, the Presidents of Central America signed a Central American Convention for the Protection of Biodiversity, the first of its kind in the world. At that same meeting, it was decided that an agreement will be reached in the next few months on the disposal of toxic waste.

Rio is a point of departure. A basic process of change has been initiated, to which Nicaragua is firmly committed. To that end, Nicaragua is firmly committed to the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions and the declaration on forests, one of the most important of the Conference. The results of Rio show that it is possible to activate the North-South dialogue for progress in specific areas, which should result in progress towards a new world order.

ALI HASSAN MWINYI, President of the United Republic of Tanzania: Beyond the screaming headlines of the environmental emergencies, such as global warming and depletion of the ozone layer, which receive much of the world's media attention, there are the more immediate issues of human survival, which waste many lives. Some 1.5 billion people in developing countries do not have access to health services; 1.75 billion do not have access to safe water; 2.8 billion are without access to sanitation facilities; 750 million children suffer from acute diarrhoea diseases annually, of which 4 million die; 150 million are malnourished. Thus, environmental degradation in Tanzania, as in other poor countries, is principally a development problem. Its solutions must be based on the need to combat poverty and promote development.

It would not be defensible if measures to protect the environment were to perpetuate hunger, disease and poverty. It would be unacceptable if, out of concern for environmental conservation, this Conference were to impose new conditionalities on the debt-ridden and resource-starved economies of the poor. The challenge is to pull large populations out of mass poverty to ensure their full participation in the global efforts to protect the environment.

Developing countries will require new and additional financial resources to enable them to implement sustainable development programmes. Environmentally-sound technologies need to be transferred to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms to help these countries meet the imperative of sustainable developments. Action should also be taken to relieve developing countries from the burden of foreign debt in order to release resources for sustainable development.

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND, Prime Minister of Norway: "We owe it to the world to be frank about what we have achieved here in Rio: progress in many fields, too little progress in most fields and no progress at all in some fields."

The two important Conventions opened for signature will not work unless all major countries sign, ratify and implement them. The UNCED has not dealt seriously enough with extremely important issues such as the need for more open trade and its environmental and developmental impacts, which are so vital for developing countries.

There is no turning back from realizing that the world is heading towards a crisis of uncontrollable dimensions unless it changes course. The North, as well as the rich in the South, will have to change consumption and production patterns. The implementation of Agenda 21 requires financing and new priorities to be set in all countries. If more countries increase their efforts and improve the quality of their contributions, Agenda 21 can become "Accomplished 21".

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The road from Rio will take nations many extra miles together. There are several bills that need to be covered in an unruly, troubled world -- bills of peace keeping, refugee relief, famines and natural disasters. The environmental threats and poverty, however, are cross-cutting, long-term, predictable and unavoidable, unless a world order of burden sharing, common perceptions and common responsibility is established.

Those difficult decisions which could not be taken in Rio will have to be taken in the very near future. For this to happen accountable Governments must work together.

FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, President of France: Formerly dominated by nature, man now has it in his power to destroy all life on earth and in so doing, to destroy himself. The earth is man's house and garden, his shelter and his food. Yet it is suffering from the problems of climate and the whims of man. There is need to know the planet better, beginning with the biosphere. The developing countries must preserve and restore their own domain. The industrial countries must contribute to reducing environmental changes. France accepted the Conventions before the Conference although it would have approved more bold commitments. France also acceded to the declaration on forests and had hoped for agreement on a convention on drinking water.

The countries of the South, regardless of their legitimate will to develop, cannot absolve themselves of protecting the environment for one and all. The developed countries must devote 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to the assistance of the developing countries. France, which will honour that commitment, will double its assistance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and also increase its assistance to the Development Fund. France proposes that a new meeting be held three to five years from now and that institutions and machinery be established that will ensure the follow-up of UNCED's work.

Ecology is not a luxury of the North. Drugs, violence, crime and fanaticism must be ranked among the worst kinds of pollution. There must also be preservation of the biodiversity of cultures and civilizations which are threatened with strangulation. France asks that Rio be a synonym for hope.

ANGELO CARDINAL SODANO, Secretary of State of the Holy See: The view of the Catholic Church regarding the problems under discussion is inspired by the pages of the Bible, which state that the created universe has been entrusted by God to man, who has a central place in the world, and he is to govern it with wisdom, responsibility and respect. The present ecological crisis is one disturbing aspect of a more profound moral crisis. It is the result of a mistaken concept of inordinate development, which fails to take into account the limits, laws and harmony of the natural environment. The earth is suffering because of human selfishness.

The increasing, morally unacceptable and unjust gap between the North of the world, growing ever richer, and the South, ever poorer, is obvious. It should be considered quite normal for an advanced country to devote a part of

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its production to meet the needs of developing nations. In the early centuries of the Christian era, it was said: "Feed the person dying of hunger, because otherwise you are responsible for that person's death."

Everyone is aware of the problems that can come from a disproportionate growth of the world population. The Church is aware of the problem, but the urgency of the situation must not lead to errors in proposing ways of intervening. To apply methods which are not in accord with the true nature of man actually ends up causing tragic harm, placing the heaviest burden on the poorest, adding injustice to injustice. It is not possible, from a moral point of view, to justify an attitude that tries to decide for the less fortunate how many children they can have and threatening to link aid for development to that dictate.

ALBERT REYNOLDS, Prime Minister of Ireland: The Rio Declaration is a new and comprehensive statement of basic principles which all must pledge to respect in national and international undertakings. The Conventions on Climate Change and Biological Diversity are important new steps towards improved environmental management at the global level. The international community must implement the Conventions quickly and build further on them, drawing on all available strategies. The development of new technology is one of the most important of these strategies and should be rapidly accelerated.

Irish and Brazilian interests are currently involved in efforts to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of hydrogen steel technology. If successful, this technology could replace the use of wood charcoal and coke by the steel industry, which accounts for over 10 per cent of man-made carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. This substitution would reduce not only global warming but also the demand for rainforest timber. Carbon dioxide emissions from the practice of flaring gas exceed the overall emissions of many industrialized countries. The development of technologies to deal with that problem needs to be accelerated.

Agenda 21 rightly underscores the special role of women in caring for the environment. Guardianship of the environment by women is an important and positive force, and one which must be harnessed in the various environment action programmes. Ireland has committed itself to a planned programme of increases in ODA for the period 1992-1994, despite difficult domestic circumstances. It welcomes the planned establishment of a start-up fund to support key Agenda 21 sectors.

PATRICIO AYLWIN AZOCAR, President of Chile: Chile's Constitution enshrined every person's right to live in an environment free of contamination, and the duty of the State is to promote the preservation of nature. Recently, a law for the protection of native forests was submitted to the legislature and 200 million trees were planted. Soon, framework legislation will be proposed. By now, everyone should be aware of the inhumane effects of greenhouse gases, depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain and other environmental problems. They are just as harmful as hunger, malnutrition, lack of employment, homelessness and poverty. For Chile, environmental protection is not seen as an impediment to development, but as one of its elements.

The task ahead will be expensive and there are two principles to be kept in mind when considering the cost. First, the polluter should pay. Second, the principle of solidarity, which means that those with the greatest resources, often acquired through the abusive use of resources, must contribute the most to making environmental investments in developing countries. Trade barriers in the industrialized world placed an enormous burden on developing countries, which in turn led to a deterioration of natural resources. At the same time, invoking legitimate concerns should not result in raising "green" protection barriers. Trade protectionism disguised by the cover of environmentalism is unacceptable. Courage and generosity are necessary to overcome these barriers. International understanding regarding the environment is possible. It is vital.

ZHELYU ZHELEV, President of Bulgaria: Along with the many serious problems which Bulgaria has to tackle today are those inherited from the vicious anti-ecological practices of communism. The senseless expansion against nature caused an imbalance in the ecosystem, deteriorated conditions of life, seriously harmed human health and upset the natural links between man and environment. That bitter experience made people aware that there can be no actual development when the environment is being destroyed, and that modern democracy can only be achieved on the basis of harmony with nature.

Guided by this awareness and the desire to share in the responsibility to act now, Bulgaria signed the two Conventions. Everyone should do his or her share in solving the ecological problems facing the planet. Small or big, rich or poor, each country should participate within its means in the common action to save nature as a condition for the sustainable development of humankind. Environment and development are locked together in a fatal embrace, and neither must get the upper hand. Both must survive in good shape to benefit mankind. Prompted by this understanding, Bulgaria subscribes to Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration.

There are no national or regional problems when it comes to saving the environment; ecological problems affect all. They are global problems.

ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE, President of Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe is ready to assume its responsibility towards the preservation of the planet. It accepts that challenge in the spirit of a new global partnership, based on a system of justice, equality and fair play.

All should share in the burden. The South should intensify efforts to prevent the destruction of its flora and fauna, halt desertification and the pollution of its rivers. The North must curtail its excessive consumption patterns, which have contributed to the life-threatening pollution of the planet's air and water. Zimbabwe has gone a long way to find solutions to its problems of environmental degradation, embarking on a strategy which addresses all issues relating to the environment and threats thereto.

Zimbabwe has signed both Conventions in Rio and considers Agenda 21 as the most important policy initiative of this unique gathering. Its success will require large-scale funding, particularly by developed countries.

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Developing countries, on the other hand, must adjust their economic and social policies in order to achieve sustainable development.

It is time that the North should pay full price for the South's natural resources and remove trade barriers. The South needs to be economically viable if it is to play its role in safeguarding the environment. The international community must formulate new financial and technical policies in favour of the South so as to enable it to overcome poverty and contribute to environmentally sustainable development. Present patterns of consumption must give way to a sustainable use of the world's resources.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

ENV/DEV/151
15 June 1992

WORLD LEADERS ATTENDING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE HOLD ONE-HOUR ROUNDTABLE MEETING

Statements Made by Regional Groups, President of Brazil, United Nations Secretary-General and Conference Secretary-General

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 June -- Heads of State or Government attending the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held this afternoon a one-hour roundtable meeting to reaffirm their commitment to the goals of the Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit".

Statements on behalf of the regional groups represented at the United Nations were made by Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana, on behalf of African States; Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, on behalf of Asian nations; Jelyu Jelev, the President of Bulgaria, on behalf of the States of Eastern Europe; Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the President of Mexico, on behalf of the States of the Latin American and Caribbean region; and Franz Vranitsky, the Federal Chancellor of Austria, on behalf of Western European and Other States.

In addition, statements were made by the President of Brazil, Fernando Collor de Mello, in his capacity as President of the Conference; by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali; and by Conference Secretary-General Maurice Strong.

Statement by United Nations Secretary-General

United Nations Secretary-General BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI: Since the beginning of April, at a meeting of the heads of the various agencies of the United Nations, a task force was created with a mandate to follow up on the decisions of the Conference. What is important now is to maintain the momentum in favour of the decisions adopted at Rio. The United Nations will do everything that can be done in this respect. The United Nations will coordinate with its various agencies, as well as with non-governmental

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organizations, which have mobilized public opinion and educated it with respect to the problems of the environment.

Statement by Conference Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the Conference, MAURICE STRONG: Those assembled have come as leaders of the nations of the earth and are now being called upon to act as custodians of its future. The world is on a course that must change. There can be doubts about the particulars, but there can be no doubt about the deteriorating condition of the planet over the past 20 years -- 1.7 billion people "scrambling around to make a living" from a diminishing supply of resources in the South. There is no question that while nations can take satisfaction about what is being accomplished at UNCED, no one can be complacent.

Unless the agreements reached at UNCED are accompanied by real commitments to significant change: "We are headed for a moment in the twenty-first century when the condition of our species may become terminal. Only the world leaders assembled now at UNCED could start this process here and now. Political commitment must precede legal instruments. You have the power; you have this unique opportunity and most of all, you have the responsibility ... The world will remember all of you and hold you accountable for what you do here ...".

Statements on Behalf of Regional Groups

Sir KETUMILE MASIRE, President of Botswana, on behalf of African States: Africa is the home of a rich cultural heritage, abundant in biological diversity and home of some of the richest equatorial forests. Regrettably, it is also the victim of some of the most serious cases of desertification, deforestation, drought and many other environmental problems.

The new beginning launched at UNCED is of crucial importance to address these problems. It has taken historic decisions; the Rio Declaration must be regarded as a vital beginning on the road to the Earth Charter which the Conference has failed to negotiate. Perhaps this could be launched to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. A more appropriate way to celebrate this anniversary could not be imagined.

The implementation of Agenda 21 is of crucial importance to future prosperity. It is a symbol of commitment to a world free of environmental degradation. A new commitment on debt relief is welcome; more needs to be done. Africa's heavy burden must be relieved if Africa is to take its rightful place under the sun. The drafting of a convention on desertification is most urgent and must be pursued.

The nations of the world must implement their good intentions. The present opportunity for change must be seized. "Time is not on our side."

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MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF, Prime Minister of Pakistan, on behalf of Asian States: The Conference is "a truly remarkable event in human history; after the Summit, the world will never be the same again. We have taken a giant step towards sustainable development and the creation of an ecological and social environment which is safe, harmonious and clean". The elimination of poverty is a first and most formidable task before the international community. Neither its social structure nor its ecological system can survive the conditions of inequality that prevail at present.

Expectation from UNCED may not have been fully met, but there is a renewed sense of urgency and purpose and a determination to work for a more equitable and environmentally sound world order.

ZHELYU ZHELEV, President of Bulgaria, on behalf of the Eastern European States: A new kind of humanism is being born at the Conference. There is a new attitude towards the environment and a new relationship between developed and developing countries, between the present and future generations. The UNCED will have a lasting significance for the future concerted actions of humanity in cultural and socio-economic progress on the basis of sustainable development.

Vast resources are needed for the transfer of technologies to the developing countries. The States of Eastern Europe could be included in a more tangible manner in this process; they have considerable scientific potential and skilled labour. They should be assisted in resolving their problems, their foreign debt in particular, through the application of the "nature-for-debt" principle. The very tentative attempts in this direction thus far are not encouraging.

CARLOS SALINAS DE GORTARI, President of Mexico, on behalf of Latin American and Caribbean States: The region is replete with challenges. The urgent demands of the people must be met; abroad, the kind of integration which will ensure the region a place in the future of the world will be promoted.

The subject of sustainable development is at the centre of the debate. Not only is that the key to promoting dignified living standards, but it is necessary to enable every generation to guarantee well-being for future generations. Development rooted in the wanton use of natural resources is not progress. The peoples of Latin America have learned that the satisfaction of their needs at the expense of nature's balance has a high price that has to be paid in the future. "Today's bread must not become tomorrow's hunger." The region desires development open to trade and to technological and financial flows which will promote healthy growth with high levels of productivity.

The ecological cause must not become the cause of protectionism serving commercial interests or an excuse to stray from the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination. Latin America and the Caribbean States reaffirm their will to protect the environment within the framework of self-determination and broad international cooperation. They need open competition which will make possible free access of their products to other

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markets and the renegotiation of debts, access to clean technology and acceleration of the region's integration. They want to stand together to assume a responsibility to protect the environment of the world. This can be done on the basis of broad social participation, involving non-governmental organizations. Such participation is vital.

FRANZ VRANITSKY, Federal Chancellor of Austria, on behalf of Western European and Other States: The political leaders of countries must ask themselves whether they are truly responsive to the tasks at hand. Are they ready to look beyond the daily chores of government? Are they sufficiently creative and courageous in their decisions? Despite hundreds of pages emerging from the Conference, "I'm not sure whether we really have accepted some of the basic facts underlying the challenge of environment and development".

Have leaders really accepted that some of the patterns of consumption and production are not sustainable? Have their respective delegations been mandated to negotiate on the understanding that the future can only be a shared and common future for all? Have the increasing imbalances among peoples and regions of the world been duly taken into account?

The developed countries cannot afford any longer to live in an apparently splendid present and remain blind to the threat of a destitute future. There is a need for courage and political leadership, as it is recognized that the common future demands a more equitable sharing of the world's wealth. The challenge of sustainable development cannot be met if some concentrate their efforts only on development and others only on the environment.

A new look at growth, in terms of sustainability, must be undertaken. There must be a strong commitment in the area of population policies; current population growth rates in some countries are not sustainable. The concept of sustainable development can only become operative if independence is fully accepted. It is therefore necessary to overcome the institutional fragmentation with regard to questions of sustainable development. International instruments must be strengthened or, if necessary, newly created. There must be more citizen participation on the basis of democratic structures and cooperation among all sectors of society.

Statement by Conference President

FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELLO, President of Brazil and President of the Conference: No place in the world is free from environmental and developmental problems; some derive involuntarily from the poverty that still afflicts billions of human beings; others result from conscious overdevelopment.

Sustainable development, a concept that summarizes the Conference goals, is more than merely a proposal of a new economic model; its full achievement requires efforts to endow all human beings with a sustainable, dignified and rewarding way of life. While evaluating the results of the Conference, a distinction must be made between real progress, translated into adopted documents, from the potential gains. The Rio Conference is a starting point which will require continuous solidarity and integrated work to produce results.

Deep transformations recently experienced in the international arena confirm the perception of an acceleration of history. Although certain parts of the world have moved quickly towards freedom, and only a few months were enough to put an end to the cold war, very little was done in terms of reducing inequalities among the developed and the developing societies. The economic model adopted by the industrial countries will have to be reconsidered because it seems unsustainable and cannot serve as a basis for the future, either in the North or in the South. Without overcoming underdevelopment, all efforts to protect the environment will necessarily be limited. Ending the devastation brought by hunger is perhaps even more important for the survival of the planet than ending the devastation of nature.

The solution for excessive population growth is inexorably linked with overcoming underdevelopment.

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United Nations

Press Release

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ENV/DEV/152
16 June 1992

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

TWO-DAY SUMMIT SEGMENT

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 June -- The Summit segment of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development concluded this evening, with a total of 102 statements. The two-day session was addressed by 53 Heads of State, 41 Heads of Government, seven Vice-Presidents and a Crown Prince.

The speakers this afternoon were the Presidents of Angola, Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, Kiribati, Finland, Guinea, Haiti, Uruguay, Botswana, Cyprus, Mozambique, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Suriname and Armenia.

Also addressing the Summit were the Prime Ministers of Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Malaysia, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Luxembourg and the Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation.

Statements in Summit Segment

JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, President of Angola: The importance of the Rio Conference is undeniable, as is evident from the many important political and scientific people gathered at the Conference. The most important thing, however -- much more important than blaming one another for the ecological imbalance -- is finding the unity to confront the problems. Joint solutions must be found, not just for global problems, but for the problems faced by Africa and the developing world.

Angola has adopted a set of principles on the environment, but it is not easy to conciliate a deprived population that might be imposing problems on the environment. The paradox must be avoided;the attempt to save the environment might condition the effort at development. If, on the one hand, the developing world has to stimulate development, then criteria must be found for the transfer of technology that will allow that development to proceed while it meets common concerns about the environment. Angola has a great resource potential. It will use those resources in a rational way to ensure its future.

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For information media—not an official record

The stage can now be set for cooperation aimed at greater international integration, which will correct the errors of the past and set the groundwork for the future. In that regard, the problem of desertification is critical in Africa and a global decision on the issue is necessary. With the Rio Conference, a significant step has been taken towards an efficient use of the common heritage of mankind.

MAXIME CARLOT, Prime Minister of Vanuatu: Underdevelopment, poverty and restricted economic opportunity continue to plague the majority of the world's population and has led to the accelerating deterioration of the environment. The tireless efforts of that majority to eke out a subsistence living -- to eat perhaps one meal a day -- has resulted in the rapid depletion of fragile soils and natural resources and frightening assaults on the environment to pay excessive debt obligations.

The Rio Declaration contains some principles that could mean that poverty will not be permanently institutionalized in the name of global action to save the environment. Vanuatu is, of course, concerned about its physical survival and wants to see strong measures taken to protect the environment. However, those measures will not succeed if they are taken at the expense of the legitimate dreams of people everywhere for an improved standard of living.

Within hours of arrival in Rio, Vanuatu had signed the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Much remains to be done on the Climate Change Convention, and Vanuatu will participate in all phases of work to breathe life and substantive commitment into it. As for the Convention on Biodiversity, Vanuatu is also concerned about intellectual property rights, but its concern is somewhat different. It believes that the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples and people in developing countries have been either ignored or undervalued by developed countries.

AMATA KABUA, President of the Marshall Islands: This Conference will be viewed by future generations as the pivotal point in humanity's collective life upon the planet. Governments have come to Rio because they have been forced to acknowledge that the world's existing physical, social, political and economic systems are unstable. Yet, even while filled with turmoil, the moment also offers an opportunity to choose a future that is peaceful, prosperous and equitable.

There is a certain irony in the fact that, with the end of the cold war, the threat of nuclear holocaust has been greatly diminished, while the rising sealevel threatens to destroy the Marshall Islands as completely and effectively as any nuclear weapon. Moreover, unlike the nuclear-weapons race, which was resolved through the efforts of a few nations, the issues of environmental degradation and the need for sustainable development can only be dealt with on a global scale. If there is not a consensus to undertake restorative action on a global scale, time may run out.

The momentum set in motion by Rio must not be lost. Therefore, the United Nations should consider holding a follow-up Earth Summit in 1995,

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coinciding with its fiftieth anniversary.

MIGUEL ANJOS DA CUNHA LISBOA TROVOADA, President of Sao Tome and Principe: The Conference must choose objectives, set goals and find ways of implementing them. In the 20 years since the Stockholm Conference, the environmental situation has suffered even greater deterioration. The Rio Declaration has set decisive landmarks. The protection of the environment is linked to development, and no country, regardless of size or wealth, is excluded from responsibility. Sao Tome and Principe had hoped to see reinforced the dynamics to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries. Never has it been so obvious that the destiny of all humanity is closely linked. There is no way for a country to protect itself from an ecological catastrophe even if it occurs miles away.

The shocking contrasts between the ways and conditions of life in the developed and developing world is a scandal. The Conference is a positive and significant sign and provides hope. It points to the political will of States to take action. The institutions of the Conference constitute important solutions to the problems that afflict the world.

Small island countries are fragile and extremely vulnerable to environmental imbalances. They deserve special attention. In the exclusive economic zone, serious situations go unpunished because of a lack of technical means of surveillance. There is a significant presence of large tankers with huge cargoes and fishing boats that over-fish. Rio has created great expectations and all have a responsibility to fulfil them in daily life.

TEATAO TEANNAKI, President of Kiribati: Kiribati, a country of 33 low and flat coral atolls, is surrounded by a vast ocean that is encroaching on the land. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts sealevel rise at a rate that would threaten Kiribati's survival during the twenty-first century. This is Kiribati's share of the cost of industrialization and economic development. That is clearly disproportionate to its negligible share, if any, in causing global environmental problems. Kiribati urges the Conference to show collective wisdom in the decisions and follow-up actions by individual States, especially the industrialized countries.

The Convention on Climate Change lacks any specific commitments on carbon dioxide stabilization and reduction within a set time-frame -- sadly, from the point of view of the small and low-lying States whose survival and sustainable development depend on political will to do something now. Kiribati strongly urges that the intent to consider appropriate action to address the special needs of the most vulnerable States be put into practice. Kiribati's special concern is that it not be threatened by sealevel rise caused by human-induced global warning. The management of the resources of the high seas is still a problem, and Kiribati urges that efforts be made towards resolving the differences between the distant fishing nations and the coastal States.

Kiribati objects to any form of nuclear testing in the Pacific. "Agenda 21" should have given more consideration to pollution from radioactive nuclear

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weapons and toxic substances.

BIKENIBEU PAENIU, Prime Minister of Tuvalu: The Convention on Climate Change is weak. Scientific uncertainty, loss of jobs and reluctance to change lifestyles have been cited by leading developing nations as reasons to oppose a firm commitment to stop global warming. These, however, are domestic problems which must be solved domestically. The main way for developed countries to eradicate poverty and ensure optimum levels of employment in their own societies is to restructure their own economic and social needs.

Although compromise and consensus are characteristic of the people of the Pacific, there should never have been a compromise on the subject of global warming. Tuvalu cannot compromise its very survival. The Conference of the parties to the Convention must meet within the next 12 months to devise a programme to combat global warming.

The North must make the necessary investments to meet international objectives on climate change. Commitments by the South to conserve biodiversity in tropical forests without commitment by the North to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will result in disproportionate obligations. Tuvalu is blessed with an abundance of natural resources -- including renewable solar energy and wave-power energy, but it does not have the technical and financial capability to utilize them fully. The developed countries are obligated to further the economic use of those resources and transfer them to the country of origin.

Tuvalu has no financial resources for the implementation of the Conventions' action programmes. It is imperative for the Conference to establish a non-bureaucratic arrangement for the disbursement of funds to the victims of climatic change.

FLAVIO COTTI, Federal Councillor of Switzerland: The agreements signed in Rio are essentially general commitments, which will certainly require further development and improvement. Yet, the Rio Conference has brought to the fore the link between environment and development problems and allowed nations to clearly state their concerns. This has also stimulated a profound reflection in business sectors on the way they can contribute to solving these problems. States and business now agree that there can be no development without environmental protection and no economic success if it does not take into account ecological values. Of course, when it comes to implementing the broad principles, legitimate differences arise. People are different, culturally, geographically and demographically. But Rio offered every State the opportunity to express its views.

Several items require attention. Industrialized countries, the main emitters of greenhouse gases, must take the first steps in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and those steps must be concrete. Further, economic measures aimed at environmental protection -- such as a carbon tax -- should be applied as broadly as possible. Also, Agenda 21 will lead to additional costs for developing countries and they will need assistance. Finally, the

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follow-up to United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) must be implemented as quickly as possible, beginning the very day after the Conference ends.

MAUNO KOIVISTO, President of Finland: Finland's experience and dependence on forest resources demonstrates that only ecologically sound multiple use of forests opens the way to sustainable development. Now that the era of political confrontation is over, it is time to focus attention on another polarization. Ways must be found to change the present tendency under which the industrialized countries keep on raising the level of consumption while the developing countries either lag behind or become poorer.

The most significant threat to the earth is not the poverty of the South, but the affluence of the North. The industrialized nations have developed patterns of production and consumption which waste natural resources and pollute the environment. There is a reason to assess critically the lifestyles which are ecologically and economically unsustainable.

It is necessary to respect the carrying capacity of nature. Sustainable development is a national imperative for every nation. But in addition to national efforts, substantial additional external funding is required for the developing countries, as well as for countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy.

The time is ripe to convert United Nations and international financial institutions into a force promoting sustainable development. The two Conventions signed here show the road. The next steps should be negotiations on conventions on sustainable management of forests and on combating desertification. A special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to a follow-up of UNCED should be convened soon, preferably in 1995.

LANSANA CONTE, President of Guinea: Since the Stockholm Conference, there has been a steady succession of initiatives to enhance the environment, the most important being the present meeting which represents a general recognition of the progressive deterioration of the planet earth. The capacity of the earth to absorb and render harmless toxic gases and other substances emitted by modern society, and to tolerate the changes imposed on the natural environment, has been exhausted.

Guinea faces pressing problems in the realms of the environment and sustainable development. Despite considerable efforts to lay the foundation for sustainable development, the results have often been limited because of inherent conditions in developing countries in general and in Africa in particular. Those conditions include the external debt, insufficient official development assistance (ODA), the complexity of financial mechanisms for making financial arrangements and the difficulties that exports have in penetrating northern markets. Guinea is aware that its economic and environmental development depends first on policies and measures initiated at the national level. No matter how diligent and determined the attempt to establish those policies, however, it is not possible to ensure their success

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within the imbalance of the current international economic system.

Guinea is convinced that the Summit will respond to the aspirations of millions of men and women around the world. It is mandatory that the results achieved ensure the security of the planet and the well-being of mankind.

JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE, President of Haiti: After 500 years of resistance, 200 years of independence attacked by institutional violence, Haiti is feeding its land with its own flesh and blood. The flesh of thousands of children who have been slain, the blood of its daughters and sons for having said "yes" to democracy. Just last night, another orphanage was set afire. A bloody "coup d'état that whispers", political pollution, ecological sickness. Seven million men and women in grave danger.

In 1492, 80 per cent of Haitian territory was covered with luxuriant vegetation. Today, only 7 per cent is covered and, of that, only 1.5 per cent is forest. Of the 27,750 square kilometres, each year 1,350 metric tonnes of soil per kilometre is lost. The land is leaving. The boat people are also leaving -- some 40,000 political refugees in eight months. Both the land and the children are heading towards the sea.

Political pollution, environmental sickness, 7 million men and women in grave danger, while the world watches. Haitian space can only be saved by the return of democracy. The future of Rio is linked to that of Haiti, the most impoverished country in the hemisphere. "Live on our knees. No. Die standing up. Yes." Dignity or death, that is the thing. Haiti, 1992, offers the international community the opportunity to greet the year 2000 with a striking victory. The suffering of one is the suffering of all. The human species is in grave danger, as the world watches.

LUIS ALBERTO LACALLE, President of Uruguay: "I belong to the generation which, at Stockholm in 1972, realized that the world has limits, and that the planet could not be polluted and devastated endlessly... . In 20 years, will my children be coming to another assembly to express their concerns for the environment and approve a new document, or will we have adopted measures to preserve the environment, making such an assembly unnecessary?"

Nations have a duty not to pollute, because borders do not keep pollution from spreading. There are 178 United Nations Member States, yet there is no treaty binding upon all of them, not even human rights conventions or that on the law of the sea.

Governments must begin the drafting of juridical obligations in terms of the environment and violations of it. Such a treaty, which must be acceded to by everyone, should resolve the contradiction between sovereignty and environment. Uruguay intends at the next session of the General Assembly to propose mechanisms to legislate in this area, to regulate and punish violators of the law on the environment. There is no greater political will than to begin drafting such a treaty.

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Sir KETUMILE MASIRE, President of Botswana, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU): The planet is under greater threat today because of man's irrational behaviour towards his own survival. The problems of pollution, desertification and deforestation are worse. Habitat is now under threat from new crises brought about by man himself in the pursuit of economic progress. The threat from ozone depletion, global warming and desertification points to global catastrophe. Concern for these problems must lead to a determined effort to change and to redress past harmful policies.

In conformity with the African common position and the rest of the developing world, OAU welcomes the agreement on Agenda 21 but is concerned about its implementation. Because developed nations continue to promote policies and activities which degrade the global environment, they must provide new and additional resources to address those problems. Africa is also concerned about the lack of progress on technology transfer, resource flows, debt relief and trade imbalances.

Africa demands global action on climate change, desertification and poverty. There is a need for a convention on desertification, and Africa hopes the General Assembly will act expeditiously on that issue. New and additional financial resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes is central to the achievement of sustainable development.

Africa objects that an earth charter is yet to be realized, and it supports the proposal to work towards its conclusion to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD, Prime Minister of Malaysia: If there is to be sustainable development, then nations must be prepared to make the necessary adjustments. By saying that a particular lifestyle is sacred, and not for negotiation, then it is meaningless to talk of development and the environment. It is what the rich do that counts, not what the poor do. It is imperative, therefore, that the rich change their lifestyles. Since one of the major industrialized countries could not agree to cut back on its emission of carbon dioxide, its decision has rendered the agreement inequitable and meaningless.

The poor countries have been told to preserve their forests and other genetic resources on the off-chance that at some future date, something is discovered which might prove useful to humanity. But now they are told that the rich will not agree to compensate the poor for their sacrifices, arguing that the diversity of genes stored and safeguarded by the poor are of no value until the rich, through their superior intelligence, release the potential within. That is an intellectual property and must be copyrighted and protected.

The poor are not asking for charity. When the rich chopped down their own forests, built their poison-belching factories and scoured the world for cheap resources, the poor said nothing. Indeed, they paid for the development of the rich. Now the rich claim the right to regulate the development of the

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poor countries. And yet, any suggestion that the rich compensate the poor adequately is regarded as outrageous. "As colonies, we were exploited. Now as independent nations, we are to be equally exploited." Malaysia finds scant regard for the principles of fairness and equity. Even the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 have been watered down on the insistence of the powerful and the rich.

GEORGE VASSILIOU, President of Cyprus: Protection of the environment is inextricably linked to regionally balanced economic development, appropriate population policies and sustainable consumption patterns. What everyone knows, but has yet to act on, is that no country can afford to ignore what is happening in other parts of the world. Limiting efforts to the national level will not safeguard the local environment. However, good housekeeping begins at home, and Cyprus has taken measures which, though unpopular in the short term, are essential, including a moratorium on tourist development. Nevertheless, it is evident that this is a small world, and that without a collective effort, individual measures will never be sufficient.

Action plans for the protection of the environment carry a heavy financial burden. The funds will never become readily available unless donor countries are convinced that they are investing in their own survival and that of the planet. Cyprus calls for a public awareness campaign to disseminate this message.

The Earth Summit and Agenda 21 represent an important milestone and the centerpiece of a collective commitment to safeguard the planet for future generations. Cyprus is committed to this and has signed the Conventions resulting from the Summit.

TOFILAU ETI ALESANA, Prime Minister of Western Samoa: Samoa and the Pacific Island States do not have the luxury of waiting to see what will or will not be done to combat the ecological problems the world now faces. For them, it is not just a question of reaching or maintaining sustainable levels of development or eradicating hunger and poverty. For them, it is a matter of pure survival. This Summit, as historic as it is, is only the beginning of the monumental task confronting the world.

The success of this meeting is not to be measured by the signing of these papers, but in their implementation and the follow-up process that must be done. Samoa urges world leaders to work together to eliminate, or at least alleviate, the dangers that threaten environmental security, economic development and, for some, their very existence.

The Pacific has been the dumping ground for toxic substances and nuclear testing by developed countries. Samoa therefore looks to more nations to lend resources to discontinue such destructive practices and to take the lead in restoring nature's vital balance. Nations must come to grips with the present crisis. It is therefore imperative that rich and poor nations work in partnership to achieve the goals of sustainable development in the national and global spheres.

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SOLOMON SUNAONE MAMALONI, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands: The sea, the land, the rivers and the forests are the country's resources. But unplanned or poor development planning, usually imposed from outside, and global environmental problems, such as climate change and associated sealevel rise, are becoming a threat to the country's resources and aspirations.

The South Pacific region has demonstrated the will to cooperate in this global effort. Solomon Islands welcomes the Climate Change Convention and undertakes to do its best to ensure its early ratification. It is frightening for Pacific Island countries to be told by scientists that by the end of the next century, many of their atolls and inhabitants will have vanished from the earth. This dire prediction calls for the developed countries to adhere seriously to the Climate Change Convention, which requires them to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to commit to providing new and additional financial assistance to developing countries, including small island countries, to enable them to attain sustainable development programmes.

Sustainable development is involved and costly. It is costly because exploitation of resources in a controlled and manageable fashion requires skill and appropriate infrastructure, which are not readily available in a country like Solomon Islands. Financial assistance must be given in a way not cumbersome to development.

JOAQUIM ALBERTO CHISSANO, President of Mozambique: In Mozambique, millions live in absolute poverty, not the result of historic fate or lack of resources. The potential of Mozambique is enormous and practically untouched. The situation today is due to 16 years of war that had been imposed from abroad. The displacement of people from the countryside into urban, coastal areas and transport corridors has resulted in a degradation of those ecosystems. The fragile situation of Mozambique has been made even worse by the drought in the southern part of the country.

Mozambique has high hopes for the solution of global problems and for the establishment of sustainable processes. Together with others in the region, Mozambique intends to implement appropriate and sustainable development practices. Humanity is the centre of all preoccupations. Sustainable development starts with policies that respect social justice and aim at the eradication of poverty. Likewise, the protection of biodiversity implies that different peoples will also be protected. Thus, there must be a new relationship between North and South, because the South will be unable to persist with an economic model that widens the gap between rich and poor. Misery is not compatible with environmental preservation.

The Conference must take decisive measures to set up an international convention on drought and desertification. Further, the preservation of biological diversity is a moral duty, so future generations can inherit a healthy and beautiful world. Thus, all countries should sign the Convention on Biological Diversity. Finally, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other mechanisms must be expedited so that the decisions of UNCED, particularly Agenda 21, will be translated into projects that have the true

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support of the international community.

Sir WIWA KOROWI, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea: Papua New Guinea has rich coral reef systems and extensive rain forest. Since at least 80 per cent of the population is dependent upon these renewable resources, biological diversity has always been regarded as vitally important. Papua New Guinea is fully aware of today's environmental crisis and while the crisis has largely been caused by industrialization, it realizes its responsibility in contributing to the survival of the planet, in this case having its forests act as a "carbon sink".

Papua New Guinea will sign the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, although there are some significant drawbacks, particularly by the insufficient acknowledgement of the ownership of biological diversity by indigenous people. Also, no real commitments have been made for reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. However, in order to accommodate the needs of all, reasonable compromises are necessary. Once in force, the Convention can be strengthened through implementation agreements.

Papua New Guinea has recently introduced a new forest policy and began participating in the Tropical Forest Action Plan coordinated by the World Bank. Effective implementation of the programme will lead to major changes in forest management, increasing emphasis on conservation and alternative forms of development. Ninety-seven per cent of the resources in Papua New Guinea are owned by the traditional people. As a democratic country, the rural communities will ultimately make their own decisions on utilization of resources. The international community must recognize the difficulties and must adequately compensate efforts to draw a balance between national development -- the basic needs of resource owners -- and global concern about the environment.

RAFAEL CALDERON FOURNIER, President of Costa Rica: Costa Rica calls on all Governments to make the Conference a total success. In the struggle for sustainable development and the protection of nature, only total success will suffice. To save the earth is the most humane and urgent task of the day -- humane because to save the earth is to save humanity, urgent because what is not saved now can never be saved. A policy of sustainable development should be based on the respect for life, dignity and human rights. It must also respect the common good, the family unit and women's right to participate actively in building a sustainable development.

A year and a half ago, Costa Rica issued a proclamation on the environment and the building of a new international ecological order, and it has already begun to implement specific actions. Twenty-eight per cent of national land has been placed under ecological protection. Today, those postulates are incorporated into the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. Costa Rica was recently honoured by an international environmental award, citing it as a model for the rest of the world in terms of its intelligent and courageous management of the environment.

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The Government continues -- at the national and the global level -- to aim towards full realization of development with a human face in harmony with nature. Yesterday, Costa Rica signed a declaration of intention with the Netherlands by which both countries undertake to follow a programme of cooperation to implement the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 in order to achieve sustainable development in both countries.

JACQUES SANTER, Prime Minister of Luxembourg: The Rio Conference is a major step, a point of no return on the road that will lead to sustainable development. That movement will imply a change in values and a change in the concept of the world. Any violation of the biosphere must now be seen as a violation of the earth's own integrity. And the community of nations must change its view of growth, which until now has been viewed as unlimited.

The capital base of nature must be increased. A greater respect for nature will mean more genetic diversity and a better life for all people. Luxembourg supports all initiatives that move towards sustainable development and protection of the environment. The idea of thinking globally but acting locally is much spoken about. The Conference is meeting now at the global level, but what matters most is what is done at the grassroots level. Every person must feel involved. Non-governmental organizations clearly have a role to play and the international community must listen to their voices.

The Conventions now open for signing have certain omissions. For example, the Climate Change Convention lacks specific targets, which should be addressed by swift implementation and successive protocols. The industrialized countries must take upon themselves specific responsibilities in technical cooperation, with a transfer of clean technology to the developing countries. Funds for preserving the environment and investment must be made in this area. For its part, Luxembourg has recently decided to increase its ODA to 0.35 per cent of gross national product (GNP) by 1995, with a final target of 0.7 by the year 2000. In combating climate change, it has decided to stabilize its emissions by the year 2000, and by 2005 to reduce emissions by 20 per cent.

JORGE ANTONIO SERRANO ELIAS, President of Guatemala: In seeking agreements to improve the quality of life of people and preserve life on the planet, solidarity is imperative. The future is the same for everyone, and so it is essential to overcome ideological differences. Those who have it and can do it must be prepared to cooperate and pledge that indigenous people will never again be forced to harm nature.

Cultivating and caring for nature means never destroying it. This must apply to everyone. On the issue of environment there must be no double standard, as in the past. If that is allowed to happen, demands will be placed on the less powerful, while the powerful are tolerated and their sins forgiven. All should guard against ecological criteria being used as a pretext for pressures on developing countries. Poor people would then be denied the right to the resources essential for their development. Guatemala hopes the present feeling of responsibility and solidarity will never be

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distorted with attitudes or arrogance and contempt, which would only marginalize those already in a marginal situation on this earth.

Therefore, there can be no talk about developing countries' responsibility to conserve forests unless they can have sustainable development. The cost of maintaining and preserving those forests must be shared. Each country has total sovereignty over its natural resources. Nations must voluntarily try to reach agreement, aware that the cost of preserving nature must be shared.

HUGH DESMOND HOYTE, President of Guyana: The UNCED preparatory process has established and consolidated the inextricable link between environment and development. Solutions to environmental problems are therefore inseparable from solutions to the problems of development.

Worthy as the agreements reached here, they fall short of the expectations of the peoples of the world. The gains would be immeasurably increased if nations proceeded on the basis of a global partnership that demands from each according to its capability and shares equitably the benefits derived from a development that would then be sustainable.

Guyana is a poor, developing country and confirms therefore that the tree of sustainable development cannot flourish in the infertile soil of poverty. The lack of development opportunity lies at the root of the current inequalities in attainment. Addressing those concerns is not enough. Attitudes of superiority, based on levels of achievement derived from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, must also be eliminated. The persistence of mass poverty and the continuation of over-consumption pose a grave threat to global environment security. It requires mechanisms which can guarantee sustainable development.

RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN, President of Suriname: Sustainable development can be accomplished through committed national policies within a global context of environment and development by providing the financial resources agreed upon at UNCED or those planned under Agenda 21. The new spirit of global partnership which has evolved is necessary for solutions to reduce adverse effects on the environment, since they are rooted in critical economic conditions, especially in developing countries.

Firm action must be taken in all countries to reduce atmospheric pollution caused by greenhouse gas emissions. Suriname is committed to the conservation of its biological diversity. It has carried out an extensive research programme concerning the management and regeneration of the tropical rain forest. Suriname will continue to give attention to the environmental aspects in development planning. At the same time, new legislation will be developed to comply with the principles and provisions agreed upon in the field of environment and development.

LEVON TER-PETROSSIAN, President of Armenia: Armenia is in a serious ecological situation due to geopolitical and geographical factors. These factors have left the environment in a catastrophic state because for decades the economy was promoted at any cost. At the same time, in the former Soviet Union, an economic policy was developed that was based exclusively in a way that successfully marginalized Armenia. Energy production was developed without any consideration given to the capacity of Armenia's resources or how to dispose of wastes. The sole drinking water source in Armenia was also used for energy, and in 45 years the lake's volume decreased by 42 per cent. In addition, dangerous agricultural practices were used. As a result, the rivers are plagued by waste and soil erosion.

Armenia has refrained from using nuclear power, but a continuation of the economic blockade might force such a use and might force continued use of the lake for energy purposes, which would be fraught with ecological consequences. Armenia is not a large country, but it has great scientific potential. An ecological research centre was established in Armenia, but because of the political crisis in the former Soviet Union, it was never used. Armenia is a social, cultural and geographical contact point for Europe and Asia, and is also one of the basic drinking water reservoirs for the Middle East. To take advantage of this position, an experiment should be carried out in Armenia, initiating the study of various local areas.

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United Nations

Press Release

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Final Meeting and
Round-up of Session

ENV/DEV/153
16 June 1992

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUDES AT RIO DE JANEIRO

Adopts 'Rio Declaration on Environment and Development', 'Agenda 21' Action Programme, Statement of Principles on Forests

(Received from a UN Information Officer.)

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 June -- Action and principles to address the twin crises of environment and development were agreed to this morning by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) as it concluded its two weeks of meetings in Rio de Janeiro -- meetings which included the largest gathering of world leaders ever held.

The Conference -- also known as the "Earth Summit" -- by means of a resolution proposed by Brazil, adopted and recommended for endorsement by the General Assembly at its next regular session: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; a voluminous programme of action entitled "Agenda 21"; and a "Statement of Principles on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests". Under the same text, the Conference noted that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity were opened for signature during UNCED.

In a closing statement to the Conference, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the Conference had narrowed major divisions and taken a great stride towards the goal of saving the planet. At the same time, although the Conference was drawing to a close, it was not a time to relax. The bulk of the work lay ahead. "The spirit of Rio must create a new mode of civic conduct. It is not enough for man to love his neighbour; he must also learn to love his world."

The Secretary-General of UNCED, Maurice Strong, in concluding remarks, declared that the Conference had been more than a political meeting; it had been "a profoundly important human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged". The real measure of success will be what happens once people leave Rio, he said, adding: "The world will not be the same after this Conference. Diplomacy will not be the same. The United Nations will not be the same. And prospects for our earth cannot -- must not -- be the same."

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Before declaring the Conference closed, Fernando Collor, President of Brazil, said that the Conference "does not end in Rio" and the spirit of Rio must guide the international community far beyond 1992. He went on: "Keep in mind the memory of the days spent here. The task was sowing the seeds. A good harvest will depend on our dedication. The world is not the same as it was on 3 June. It has become a little better, a little safer."

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is a set of 27 principles to govern the economic and environmental behaviour of individuals and nations in the quest for global sustainability. It proclaims that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature; that the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations; and that in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

"Agenda 21" is a blueprint for action for the sustainable development of the planet into the twenty-first century, covering all areas affecting the relationship between the environment and the economy. Programmes proposed for implementation at the local, regional and international levels address issues such as protection of the atmosphere and of the oceans; combating deforestation, desertification and drought; the role of indigenous peoples and of women in implementing sustainable development; the meeting of basic human needs, such as health, education and housing; the eradication of poverty; and the transition to patterns of production and consumption in the industrialized countries which would significantly reduce their disproportionate contribution to the deterioration of the earth's environment.

The statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests calls for efforts to be undertaken towards the greening of the world. It states that all types of forests embody complex and unique ecological processes which are the basis for their capacity to provide resources to satisfy human needs as well as environmental values. As such, their sound management and conservation is of concern to the Governments of the countries to which they belong and are of value to local communities and to the environment as a whole. The principles address the issue of forests and their resources both as environmental and economic assets.

The two Conventions, which were opened for signing at Rio, had been negotiated in processes parallel to the preparations for UNCED. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aims at stabilizing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to prevent the "greenhouse effect". The Convention on Biological Diversity concerns the conservation and sustainable use of all the earth's species -- plants, animals and micro-organisms -- and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

The Conference's two-day Summit Segment convened a record number of Heads of State and Government, a total of 103. Addressing the Summit were 93 Heads

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of State or Government. During the general debate, which extended over six days, the Conference heard statements by 135 nations, 13 United Nations specialized agencies, 23 intergovernmental organizations, 16 non-governmental organizations, 13 United Nations organs and four observer delegations -- a total of 204 speakers.

At the concluding ceremony, the Conference adopted a resolution expressing gratitude to the host country.

(Details of the documents adopted by the Conference appear later in this press release.)

Closing Statements

MAURICE STRONG, Secretary-General of UNCED, said, "This indeed is an historic moment for humanity. And, for me, it is a very great human experience." More than political, it has been "a profoundly important human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged".

Expressing gratitude to the President of Brazil, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and many others, Mr. Strong said there had never been a Conference like this in terms of importance or one that required such an immense organizational job. He thanked those behind the scenes who had taken part in that organization. He also asked for an official expression of thanks from UNCED to the Global Forum, the "people's forum".

"It is now time to reflect on what we have done and what we are called upon to do when we leave", he declared. "First, we have carried out successfully the largest intergovernmental Conference ever held on this planet. The right people have been here and the people of this planet have watched and wondered. The world will not be the same after this Conference. Diplomacy will not be the same. The United Nations will not be the same. And, prospects for our earth cannot -- must not -- be the same."

Mr. Strong mentioned the specific agreements reached in Rio and said that if there is reason for satisfaction, there is no reason for complacency. The real measure of success will be what happens when we leave here. Will the Conference be just good intentions or the start of "fundamental change"? To answer that requires examination of what has not been done. For example, the Declaration of Rio must continue to evolve. Agenda 21 has been weakened, although it still stands as the most far-reaching programme of action in international relations.

On finance, there is agreement, but not yet sufficient commitment, he stated. On climate change, an historic first step has been taken, but it is only a first step. The agreement sets neither limits nor timetables. Biological diversity has not been accepted by at least one country necessary for its effective implementation.

Finally, however, the fundamental conditions have not changed, he went on. The same patterns of production and consumption continue. Factories

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continue to belch the same smoke. The process of deterioration continues. Twenty-eighth people died of hunger every minute that was spent in Rio.

"What must we do?" he asked. "We must form a new global partnership, build on the Conventions, move quickly to a desertification convention and a forestry regime acceptable to all. We must move from a Declaration to an earth charter and translate good will into financial commitments." And, the participatory process must be expanded in implementation of Agenda 21 and the United Nations itself. Finally, this decade must be a time of transition that "firmly moves us onto a new pathway and a new economy", one that is truly an "eco-nomic" system.

Secretary-General BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI said the Conference was convened to face an immense challenge. Major divisions had been narrowed and a great stride taken towards the goal of saving the planet. The Rio Declaration marked a significant advance. It placed people at the centre of concerns, dealt with environmental and development aspects and reflected a commitment to certain basic principles. It represented a delicate compromise of various perceptions and priorities. The strength of this compromise was that it was accepted by every nation.

Agenda 21 was the centerpiece of international cooperation and coordination of activities within the United Nations system for years to come, he said. Nations now possessed an action programme that took the first steps towards spelling out the concept of sustainable development and planetary development in terms of specific actions. Agenda 21 was a programme defined on a universal basis by all countries. Commitments on poverty alleviation were included, while agreement on questions relating to a convention on desertification is an issue of great concern to some of the poorest countries.

The signing of the Conventions on Climate Change and on Biodiversity was an important part of the UNCED process, he stated. That on biodiversity represented a turning point in the protection of the life forms that nourish the earth. The Convention on Climate Change launched a process of cooperation aimed at keeping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere within safe limits. While the initial level of commitment was not as high as many would have wished, a low level of commitment should maximize participation. Each Convention had been signed by 153 countries.

It was hoped that the statement on forest principles would become a landmark in the continuing search for ways to better manage, develop and conserve these important resources, he said. Agreement on such a politically sensitive matter was a tribute to the spirit of compromise and good will. That same spirit had led to the resolution of the question on the institutional mechanism at the United Nations, to be entrusted with the follow-up of UNCED. The General Assembly would receive reports on the institutional modalities, including the work of the expected high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

Continuing, the Secretary-General said the current level of commitment was not comparable to the level of the problems. Rio was a useful moment in

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terms of awareness and mobilization. A thousand voices had risen to celebrate the first steps taken here, but there was a long way to tread. The task was immense. Rio was a beginning -- a start in environment and development. What was new was the close link securely forged between the two watchwords: planetary development and environmental protection. It was hoped that in 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, substantial results would be achieved, such as an earth charter.

Henceforth, the path should be illumined by a new light, he stated. The spirit of Rio had three dimensions -- intellectual, economic and political. The intellectual dimension lay in recognizing that the earth was a vast interlocking whole, that rising waters threatened the Ganges, Venice as well as the Pacific islands.

He said the economic dimension was probably at the heart of it all. To think of interdependence meant seeing development as a whole -- planetary development. Overdevelopment was as much a concern as underdevelopment. Planetary development must succeed all of these. The effort must be global. All must exercise care in the efficient use of additional resources. Global partnership meant all must play their part.

For the political dimension, the spirit of Rio meant a keen awareness of the political duty which stretched into the future. Politics was more than the struggle for conquest or maintaining power. Power must be exercised to prepare the world for future generations. The spirit of Rio must lead to that. What was done in this spirit would not necessarily bear fruit in the next few years, but in the distant future.

The spirit of Rio must create a new mode of civic conduct, the Secretary-General declared. It was not enough for man to love his neighbour; he must also learn to love his world, which he kept destroying. Beyond the moral contract with God and the social contract with man, it was essential to conclude a political and ethical contract with nature. Nature was always the dwelling place of the gods, and the earth had a soul. To find that soul and restore it, was the essence of Rio.

(For the full text, see Press Release SG/SM/4766-ENV/DEV/154.)

FERNANDO COLLOR, President of Brazil and President of the Conference, said that for at least 12 days the attention of mankind was focused on the essential questions of life, growth and justice on earth. "The Rio Conference does not end in Rio; the spirit of Rio must linger on and guide us into the future, far beyond 1992."

The aim here was to forge unity, he stated. The Conference "did not offset decisively the polarization trends between rich and poor", but it has increased "the universal awareness of our common destiny". The world is now aware that it must put an end to pollution that is the result of patterns of production and from the struggle to survive. It is now aware that additional resources must be used to respond to the needs of developing countries. It is aware that Rio '92 is the starting point on the road to "justice and universal peace". Finally, it is aware that the United Nations has a central role to play in the history of mankind. Issues that are related to mankind as a whole can only be dealt with in forums where all people are assembled on an equal basis.

"Keep in mind the memory of the days spent here", he urged. "The task was sowing the seeds. A good harvest will depend on our dedication. The world is not the same as it was on 3 June. It has become a little better, a little safer."

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

In the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, nations set forth "the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership" and proclaim that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources, pursuant to their own environmental and development policies. They also have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction do not cause damage to the environment or areas beyond the limits of their national jurisdiction.

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations, the Rio Declaration states. Also, in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. All States and peoples are exhorted to cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Recognizing that States have common but differentiated responsibilities, the Declaration affirms that developed countries acknowledge their responsibility in pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

In order to achieve a higher quality of life for all people, States are urged to eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies. They are also asked to cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development through scientific exchanges and the transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.

As environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, the Declaration continues, each individual should have appropriate access at the national level to information concerning the environment, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, as well as the opportunity to participate in

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decision-making. States are urged to enact effective environmental legislation, including national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage.

Calling for a supportive and open international economic system, the Declaration states that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus. The transfer to other States of activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or harm to human health should be discouraged.

In order to protect the environment, states the Declaration, the precautionary approach should be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. National authorities are called upon to promote the internationalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

The vital role of women, the creativity, ideals and courage of youth, and the knowledge and traditional practices of indigenous people and their communities are recognized as essential in promoting sustainable development. Also, the environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation should be protected.

As warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development, States are urged to respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict, states the Declaration. As peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible, States should resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and cooperate in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

Agenda 21

Covering all areas where environment and the economy intersect, Agenda 21 is a comprehensive programme of action aimed at reshaping human activities in order to minimize environmental damage and ensure sustainability in the development process. Action-oriented proposals are divided into 40 chapters and more than 100 programme areas which are described in terms of the basis for action; objectives; activities; and means of implementation, including financing and cost evaluation, as well as scientific and technological means.

The core chapters of Agenda 21 relate to the financing of its implementation and to the institutional follow-up to UNCED. The Conference recommended that the General Assembly establish a high-level commission on sustainable development to be in charge of such follow-up. The commission

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would report to the Assembly through the United Nations Economic and Social Council and would consider information provided by Governments on their implementation of Agenda 21, as well as problems faced by them in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The chapter on financial resources and mechanisms states that the general financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come from a country's own public and private sectors. However, for developing countries, particularly the least developed, official development assistance (ODA) is a main source of external funding and substantial new and additional funding for sustainable development will be required. In this connection, developed countries reaffirm their commitments to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA, and, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach it as soon as possible. Some countries have agreed to reach the target by the year 2000.

The proposed commission on sustainable development would regularly review and monitor progress towards that target, the chapter goes on. This review process should systematically combine the monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 21 with a review of the financial resources available. Funding should be provided in a way which maximizes the availability of new and additional resources and which uses all available funding sources and mechanisms, including the International Development Association (IDA) -- the World Bank's arm for concessional lending -- and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) -- which is jointly managed by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

According to the finance chapter, the GEF, whose additional grant and concessional funding is designed to achieve global environment benefits, should cover the agreed incremental costs of relevant activities under Agenda 21, in particular for developing countries.

Therefore, it should be restructured so as to encourage universal participation; have sufficient flexibility to expand its scope and coverage to relevant programme areas of Agenda 21; ensure a governance that is transparent and democratic in nature, including in terms of decision-making and operations; ensure new and additional financial resources on grant and concessional terms, in particular to developing countries; ensure predictability in the flow of funds by contributions from developed countries, taking into account the importance of equitable burden sharing; and ensure access and disbursement of the funds under mutually agreed criteria without introducing new forms of conditionality.

The technology transfer chapter, also vital for the implementation of Agenda 21, states that environmentally sound technologies protect the environment, are less polluting, use all resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substitutes. It calls for promoting and financing the access to and transfer of such technologies, particularly to developing countries, on favourable

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terms, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of UNCED's programme of action.

Agenda 21's first part addresses the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development and includes programme areas relating to combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, addressing demographic dynamics and human settlements, promoting health, and integrating environment and development in decision-making and international cooperation.

Its second part, which encompasses 24 chapters, deals with conservation and management of resources for development, and contains recommendations for protecting the atmosphere, the oceans and the quality and supply of freshwater resources; combating deforestation as well as desertification and drought; promoting sustainable rural and mountain development; and conserving biological diversity. Also addressed are the environmentally sound management of biotechnology and of toxic chemicals and radioactive and hazardous wastes, including prevention of their illegal international traffic.

Towards reaching those ends, Agenda 21 suggests strengthening the role of major social groups, including women, children and youth, indigenous people and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological communities and farmers. For its implementation, it makes recommendations on science for sustainable development and on the promotion of education, training and capacity-building in developing countries, in addition to those on financial resources and mechanisms.

The introduction to the chapter on international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries states that in order to meet the challenges of environment and development, States have decided to establish a new global partnership inspired by the need to achieve a more efficient and equitable world economy, keeping in view the increasing interdependence of the community of nations. That chapter states that in the context of external indebtedness, the provision of additional financial resources to developing countries, as well as their efficient utilization, is essential. It is also stated that in developed countries, continuing policy reform and adjustment, including appropriate savings rates, would help generate resources to support the transition to sustainable development both domestically and in developing countries.

The chapter of Agenda 21 on combating poverty consists of one programme area entitled "Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods". Among issues addressed is family planning, although that term is not used. There is a call for the implementation, as a matter of urgency, of measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. That language is repeated in the chapter addressing human health and was among the most difficult to arrive at in

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efforts to reach compromise during the negotiations.

The link between the question of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and the aggravation of poverty is addressed under the heading "Basis for action in the chapter on changing consumption patterns". It is stated that although consumption patterns are very high in certain parts of the world, the basic consumer needs of a large section of humanity are not being met. This results in excessive demands and unsustainable lifestyles among the richer segments, which place immense stress on the environment.

The poorer segments, meanwhile, are unable to meet food, health care, shelter and educational needs. Changing consumption patterns will require a multi-pronged strategy focusing on demand, meeting the basic needs of the poor, reducing waste, and the use of finite resourcer in the production process.

The chapter on protection of the atmosphere, which was one of the most difficult for negotiators in the search for consensus language, opens the section of Agenda 21 dealing with conservation and management of resources for development. It contains recommendations on energy development, efficiency and consumption; transportation; industrial development; prevention of stratospheric ozone depletion and transboundary atmospheric pollution.

It is stated that much of the world's energy is produced and used in ways that could not be sustained if technology were to remain constant and if overall quantities were to increase substantially. The need to control atmospheric emissions of greenhouse and other gases and substances will increasingly need to be based on efficiency and on growing reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy.

In the chapter on combating desertification and drought, the Conference requests the General Assembly to establish at its next regular session an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification, particularly in African countries, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994.

Another request to the Assembly, contained in the chapter on protection of oceans, is for the convening of a United Nations conference to identify and assess existing problems related to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, as well as to consider means of improving international cooperation on fisheries. Such a conference should be fully consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, according to the text.

Chapter I of Agenda 21, the preamble, summarizes development on the "road to Rio" and sets out long-term goals in the aftermath of the Conference.

"Humanity stands at a defining moment in history", the preamble declares. "We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill-health and illiteracy, and

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the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better-protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can -- in a global partnership for sustainable development."

Forests Principles

The preamble to the statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests affirms that the subject of forests is related to the entire range of environmental and development issues and opportunities, including the right to socio-economic development on a sustainable basis. "These principles reflect a first global consensus on forests." In committing themselves to their implementation, countries also decide to keep them under assessment for their adequacy with regard to further international cooperation on forest issues.

The Statement further declares that all types of forests embody complex and unique ecological processes which are the basis for their present and potential capacity to provide resources to satisfy human needs as well as environmental values. As such, their sound management and conservation are of concern to the Governments of the countries to which they belong and are of value to local communities and to the environment as a whole.

The principles state that the agreed full incremental cost of achieving benefits associated with forest conservation and sustainable development requires increased international cooperation and should be equitably shared by the international community. Forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual human needs of present and future generations. Appropriate measures to protect forests against harmful effects of pollution, including air-borne pollution, fires, pests and diseases are called for.

The principles call for a recognition of the vital role of all types of forests in maintaining the ecological processes and balance at the local, national, regional and global levels, in protecting fragile ecosystems, watersheds and freshwater resources and sources of genetic material for biotechnology products, as well as photosynthesis. Specific financial resources should be provided to developing countries with significant forest areas which establish programmes for their conservation, including protected natural forest areas. Those resources should be directed notably to economic sectors which would stimulate economic and social substitution activities.

Efforts should be undertaken towards the greening of the world, the Statement goes on. All countries, notably developed countries, should take positive and transparent action towards reforestation, afforestation and forest conservation. Sustainable forest management and use should be carried out in accordance with national development policies and priorities and on the basis of environmentally sound national guidelines. In the formulation of such guidelines, account should be taken of relevant internationally agreed

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methodologies and criteria.

Access to biological resources, including genetic material, should be with due regard to the sovereign rights of the countries where the forests are located and to the sharing on mutually agreed terms of technology and profits from biotechnology products that are derived from such resources. Also, in order to enable developing countries to enhance their endogenous capacity and to better manage, conserve and develop their forest resources, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology and corresponding know-how on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, should be promoted, facilitated and financed.

In addition, the efforts of developing countries to strengthen the management, conservation, and sustainable development of their forest resources should be supported by the international community, taking into account the importance of redressing external indebtedness, particularly where aggravated by the net transfer of resources to developed countries, as well as the problem of achieving at least the replacement value of forests through improved market access for forest products. In this respect, special attention should also be given to the countries undergoing the process of transition to market economies.

Biological Diversity Convention

The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted on 22 May, after almost four years of deliberations, by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee under the sponsorship of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Convention was opened for signature during the Conference and will enter into force after ratification by 30 States parties. As of 14 June, it had been signed by 153 States.

The Convention contains provisions that are intended to ensure effective national action to curb the destruction of biological species, habitats and ecosystems. Among them are the requirement that countries adopt regulations to conserve their biological resources; the imposition of legal responsibility upon nations for the environmental impacts of their private companies in other countries; technology transfer on preferential and concessional terms, where such transfer does not prejudice intellectual property rights or patents; regulation of biotechnology firms; access and ownership of genetic material; and compensation to developing countries for extraction of their genetic materials.

In addition, the Convention accepts the idea that industrialized countries must help developing countries financially and with know-how; it recognizes that the financial assistance must be in addition to current levels of ODA; that the responsibility for setting up a network of protected areas rests first with each country; and that the first beneficiaries of the conservation and sustainable use of wild plant and animal species should be the rural communities and indigenous people whose traditional knowledge and respect for those resources has preserved them for centuries.

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The Convention points out that by biological diversity, scientists mean all the earth's species of plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the ecosystems of which they are a part. The Convention does not make specific reference to genetically modified organisms. However, such organisms are understood to be included in the broader formulation referring to "living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology". Also absent from the text is the idea of drawing up a global list of protected areas. Instead, every country ratifying the Convention will put together its own list of protected areas. It is expected that, eventually, that will become a global list.

Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 15 months in preparation, was adopted on 9 May by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee established by the General Assembly to draft such an instrument. The Convention was open for signature at Rio and, following the Conference, it will remain open at United Nations Headquarters until 19 June 1993. It will enter into force after ratification by 50 States parties. As of 14 June, 153 States had signed it.

The Convention's aim is to protect the atmosphere from a build-up of anthropogenic gases that trap heat from the sun, causing an enhanced "greenhouse effect". The final document does not provide specific timetables and targets for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. It sets out, as an objective, the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system. Such a level, it states, should be reached within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.

As a first step towards reaching that goal, developed-country parties specified in the text recognize the importance of returning to their 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of this decade. Although the Convention does not indicate what will happen with regard to emissions after the year 2000, it does provide for the establishment of machinery, in the form of a Conference of the Parties, to take decisions regarding subsequent steps, as needed. It provides also for a review, at least twice before the year 2000, of the implementation of the commitments as well as for amendments.

Officers of Conference

The President of the Conference was Fernando Collor, the President of Brazil. The following were Vice-Presidents: Argentina, Barbados, Benin, Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

Celso Lafer, Minister of External Relations of Brazil, was ex-officio Vice-President.

Lakhadar Brahimi, Foreign Minister of Algeria, was the Conference's Rapporteur-General; Tommy T.B. Koh (Singapore) was the Chairman of the Main Committee.

Maurice Strong was the Secretary-General of UNCED.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

SG/SM/4766
ENV/DEV/154
15 June 1992

SECRETARY-GENERAL, AT CLOSE OF RIO MEETING, WELCOMES NEW ACTION PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Following is the text of the statement by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, delivered in Rio de Janeiro yesterday at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED):

It is a great honour to address you on this occasion. This Conference was called to face an immense challenge. Major divisions between the participants have been narrowed. A great stride has been taken towards our goal, which is simply stated: saving our planet.

It is my earnest hope that the spirit of Rio, which is on everyone's lips at this Summit, can provide the momentum for the even larger tasks ahead; that the decisions to be taken in the future reflect our common thinking in Rio.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as approved by the Conference, marks a significant advance. It places people at the centre of our concerns. It deals with both environmental and development aspects. It reflects a commitment to certain basic principles. I know that it represents a delicate compromise of various perceptions and priorities. The strength of this compromise is precisely that it is accepted by every nation in the world and not just one or another group of nations.

The greater part of the negotiating time of the 1992 process has been taken up by the negotiations on the action programmes included in Agenda 21. As I indicated in my opening address, I see this as the centre-piece of international cooperation and of coordination of activities within the United Nations system for many years to come.

We have now an action programme that takes the first steps towards spelling out the concept of sustainable development and planetary development in terms of specific actions.

In addition to its substantive importance, Agenda 21 is also as important as a process. We have a programme defined, not just by a few experts or by one or two groups of countries, but on a universal basis by all countries of

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the world. I am particularly gratified to see the commitments to poverty alleviation which are included in Agenda 21. I would also draw particular attention to the agreement on the questions relating to a convention on desertification, an issue of great concern to some of the poorest countries in the world.

The signing of the Framework Convention on the Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity are clearly an important part of the UNCED process. Both Conventions represent a first for the earth. In the case of biodiversity, the Convention clearly reaffirms the fact that the community of nations is committed to conserving the work of creation and prevent it from deterioration. It represents a turning point in the protection of the life forms that nourish the earth.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change launches a process of cooperation which is aimed at keeping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere within safe limits. The initial level of commitment is not as high as many would have wished. But a low level of commitment should maximize participation -- which is one condition for effectiveness. The process of policy review should improve commitments over time. The United Nations stands ready to discharge its responsibilities in the follow-up work.

I am deeply gratified that as of today 153 countries have signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and 153 countries have signed the Convention on Biodiversity.

I also note with satisfaction that your negotiations have brought a statement of principles on forests. I expect this statement to become a landmark in our continuing search for ways to better manage, develop and conserve these important resources. That you have succeeded in reaching agreement on such a politically sensitive matter is a tribute to the spirit of compromise and goodwill that has inspired you all along.

In the same spirit, you have also managed to resolve the question of the institutional mechanism at the United Nations to be entrusted with the follow-up of UNCED. I will, in accordance with your request, report to you fully at the forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly on the institutional modalities, including the work of the expected high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

Ainsi se présente aujourd'hui notre grand chantier planétaire. Cependant, c'est encore peu au regard des enjeux tels que je les décrivais en ouvrant cette Conférence. L'actuel niveau d'engagement n'est pas comparable à l'étendue et à la gravité des problèmes. Quoiqu'il en soit, Rio est un moment sur un long chemin; c'est un moment utile par les prises de conscience, les décisions, la mobilisation à laquelle il a donné lieu.

Déjà mille voix se sont fait l'écho à travers le monde des premiers jalons que nous avons posés ici. Nous avons une grande route devant nous. Beaucoup ont insisté sur l'importance du chemin qui reste à parcourir.

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On a pu dire que Rio était un début. Cela n'est vrai qu'en partie : qu'il s'agisse du développement ou qu'il s'agisse de l'environnement, les conférences, les travaux préparatoires, les programmes n'ont certes pas manqué depuis des décennies. Ce qui est nouveau, en revanche, c'est la liaison désormais fort étroite que nous avons réussi à établir solidement entre les deux mots d'ordre : le développement planétaire et la protection de l'environnement. C'est le premier acquis de Rio.

En particulier, puisque les deux voies du développement et de l'environnement sont le fruit des efforts menés de longue date par l'Organisation universelle, je souhaiterais qu'en 1995, pour son cinquantième anniversaire, des résultats substantiels soient enregistrés. Par exemple, une nouvelle Charte de la Terre pourrait être adoptée par tous, comme l'a suggéré plus d'un chef d'Etat ou de gouvernement.

Le second acquis de notre Conférence, je crois, est que désormais notre route soit éclairée par une lumière nouvelle, ce que j'ai nommé avec beaucoup d'autres, l'esprit de Rio. Il comporte je crois trois dimensions : une dimension intellectuelle, celle de la cohérence; une dimension économique, celle du développement planétaire; enfin une dimension politique, qui est le sens de la durée, c'est-à-dire de la responsabilité.

La dimension intellectuelle, celle de la cohérence consiste à reconnaître que la planète terre est un vaste ensemble d'interdépendances. La montée des eaux menace le Delta du Gange aussi bien que Venise ou les îles du Pacifique !

La deuxième dimension de l'esprit de Rio, la dimension économique, en constitue probablement le coeur. Penser les interdépendances, suppose de comprendre le développement comme un tout; c'est ce que j'ai appelé le développement planétaire. Le sur-développement est aussi préoccupant que le sous-développement : le développement planétaire doit se substituer, peu à peu, à l'un et à l'autre. Je voudrais que l'on mesure toutes les conséquences logiques de ce changement : d'abord que l'effort doit être global. Il doit être consenti aussi bien par les pays du Nord que par les pays du Sud, lesquels ne sauraient se décharger de toute contribution. Une de ces contributions des pays receveurs est d'ailleurs de veiller soigneusement à l'utilisation efficace des ressources additionnelles, selon une juste formule qui a été adoptée ici. Ce n'est pas tout : le partenariat global suppose en toute logique que tous les partenaires jouent leur rôle.

C'est par une troisième dimension, plus politique, que je voudrais terminer cette rapide récapitulation. L'esprit de Rio, pour tous les responsables que vous êtes, c'est la conscience claire d'un devoir politique, celui du long terme. La politique est davantage qu'une lutte pour la conquête ou la conservation du pouvoir; l'essentiel c'est l'exercice du pouvoir, c'est-à-dire la préparation du monde pour les générations à venir. L'esprit de Rio nous ramène à cet essentiel de la politique, la préparation de l'avenir : ce que nous faisons dans cet esprit ne portera pas nécessaire des fruits dans les prochaines années, mais au-delà, quelquefois très au-delà !

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Mesdames et Messieurs, ainsi se clôt notre Conférence. La route est tracée. Ce n'est pas le moment de se reposer car presque tout est à faire. Aujourd'hui, l'homme est toujours un formidable destructeur. Il en est arrivé à force de trop peser sur la terre, et de détruire la vie autour de lui, à remettre en cause sa propre survie. Aujourd'hui nous entendons limiter au taux actuel les pollutions dont nous restons coupables. Un jour il faudra faire bien davantage, et nettoyer la planète - cela dans des conditions plus difficiles puisque la population mondiale se sera accrue dans 25 ans de 2 milliards. Aujourd'hui l'ONU fait ce qu'elle peut. Elle fixe les cadres - elle lance un mouvement qu'elle espère plus profond qu'un mouvement de mode, une "mode verte" qui ne serait qu'hyprocrisie. Mais la fonction de l'ONU n'est pas de masquer par le verbe, par des discours, des rapports ou des programmes l'inaction générale. A vous d'agir, à vous de prendre vos responsabilités.

Je voudrais conclure en disant que l'esprit de Rio doit créer un nouveau comportement du citoyen. Après avoir aimé son prochain comme le lui demandait l'évangile, l'homme d'après Rio doit aussi aimer le monde, y compris les fleurs, les oiseaux, les arbres - tout cet environnement naturel que nous détruisons régulièrement. Au-delà du contrat moral avec Dieu, au-delà du contrat social conclu avec les hommes il faut maintenant conclure un contrat ethique et politique avec la nature, avec cette Terre même à qui nous devons notre existence, et qui nous fait vivre.

Pour les anciens, le Nil était un Dieu qu'on vénère, de même le Rhin, source infinie de mythes européens, ou la forêt amazonienne, la "mère des forêts" (...). Partout dans le monde, la nature était la demeure des divinités. Celles-ci ont conféré à la forêt, au désert, à la montagne une personnalité qui imposait adoration et respect. La Terre avait une âme. La retrouver, la résusciter, telle est l'essence de Rio.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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14 June 1992

SECRETARY-GENERAL, AT CLOSE OF RIO MEETING, WELCOMES NEW ACTION PLANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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It is a great honour to address you on this occasion. This Conference was called to face an immense challenge. Major divisions between the participants have been narrowed. A great stride has been taken towards our goal, which is simply stated: saving our planet.

It is my earnest hope that the spirit of Rio, which is on everyone's lips at this Summit, can provide the momentum for the even larger tasks ahead; that the decisions to be taken in the future reflect our common thinking in Rio.

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The greater part of the negotiating time of the 1992 process has been taken up by the negotiations on the action programmes included in Agenda 21. As I indicated in my opening address, I see this as the centerpiece of international cooperation and of coordination of activities within the United Nations system for many years to come.

We have now an action programme that takes the first steps towards spelling out the concept of sustainable development and planetary development in terms of specific actions.

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* Revised to include the English translation of that portion of the Secretary-General's statement which was delivered in French.

For information media—not an official record

In addition to its substantive importance, Agenda 21 is also as important as a process. We have a programme defined, not just by a few experts or by one or two groups of countries, but on a universal basis by all countries of the world. I am particularly gratified to see the commitments to poverty alleviation which are included in Agenda 21. I would also draw particular attention to the agreement on the questions relating to a convention on desertification, an issue of great concern to some of the poorest countries in the world.

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I am deeply gratified that as of today 153 countries (plus EEC) have signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and 153 countries (plus EEC) have signed the Convention on Biodiversity.

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In the same spirit, you have also managed to resolve the question of the institutional mechanism at the United Nations to be entrusted with the follow-up of UNCED. I will, in accordance with your request, report to you fully at the forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly on the institutional modalities, including the work of the expected high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

Such, then, is the picture that our great planet-wide building project presents today. However, this is not much in the light of the issues at stake as I described them when I opened this Conference. The current level of commitment is not comparable with the scope and severity of the problems. However that may be, Rio is but one moment on a long road, a moment which is useful because of the awareness that has been created, the decisions that have been taken, the mobilization to which it has given rise.

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Already a thousand voices throughout the world have echoed the first signposts we have erected here. We have a long road before us. Many people have insisted on the length of the way that remains to be travelled.

It has been said that Rio was a beginning. This is true only in part: whether in relation to development or in relation to the environment, there has been no shortage in recent decades of conferences, preparatory work and programmes. What is new, on the other hand, is the now extremely close links that we have been able to cement between the two key words: planet-wide development and protection of the environment. This is the first achievement of Rio.

In particular, since the two paths of development and environment are the outcome of long-standing efforts on the part of the world Organization, I should like its fiftieth anniversary, in 1995, to be marked by substantial results. For example, a new Earth Charter could be adopted by all, as has been suggested by more than one head of State or Government.

The second achievement of our Conference, I believe, is that our road is now illuminated by a new light, which I along with many others have called the spirit of Rio. It comprises, I think, three dimensions: an intellectual dimension, that of coherence; an economic dimension, that of planet-wide development; and, lastly, a political dimension, namely the sense of duration, that is to say of responsibility. The intellectual dimension, that of coherence, consists in recognizing that the planet Earth is a vast set of interdependences. Rising water levels threaten the Ganges delta just as much as they do Venice or the islands of the Pacific.

The second dimension of the spirit of Rio, the economic dimension, probably constitutes its heart. Thinking of the interdependences implies seeing development as a whole; this is what I have called planet-wide development. Over-development and under-development give equal cause for concern: both of them must gradually be replaced by planet-wide development. I should like all the logical consequences of this change to be recognized: first, that the effort must be a global one. It must be made both by the countries of the north and by the countries of the south, which cannot avoid making any contribution. And one of these contributions of the recipient countries is to see to it that the additional resources are utilized efficiently, in accordance with a fair formula which has been adopted here. Nor is that all: in all logic, the global partnership means that all the partners must play their role.

It is with a third, more political, dimension that I should like to conclude this rapid recapitulation. The spirit of Rio, for all of you leaders gathered here, is the clear awareness of a political duty, the duty to the long-term. Politics is more than a struggle to win or retain power; its essential aspect is the exercise of power, that is to say the preparation of the world for generations to come. The spirit of Rio brings us back to this

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essential aspect of politics, the preparation of the future: what we do in this respect will not necessarily bear fruit in the next few years, but on a longer, sometimes much longer, time-scale.

Thus, ladies and gentlemen, our Conference is drawing to a close. The course has been charted. This is not a time to rest, for almost everything remains to be done. Today, man is still a formidable destroyer. By weighing too heavily on the Earth, and by destroying life around him, he has reached the point of calling in question his own survival. Today, we are seeking to limit the forms of pollution for which we are still responsible to their current rate. One day, we shall have to do much more, and clean up the planet -- and we shall have to do so under much more difficult conditions, for in 25 years the world's population will have increased by two billion. Today, the United Nations is doing what it can. It is setting the ground rules, it is launching a movement which it hopes will be something more than a fashionable trend, a "green trend" which would be nothing more than hypocrisy. But the function of the United Nations is not to mask general inaction with words, speeches, reports or programmes. Your job is to act, to assume your responsibilities.

I should like to conclude by saying that the spirit of Rio must create a new form of good citizenship. After loving his neighbour as the Bible required him to, post-Rio man must also love the world, including the flowers, birds and trees -- every part of that natural environment that we are constantly destroying. Over and above the moral contract with God, over and above the social contract concluded with men, we must now conclude an ethical and political contract with nature, with this Earth to which we owe our very existence and which gives us life.

To the ancients, the Nile was a god to be venerated, as was the Rhine, an infinite source of European myths, or the Amazonian forest, the "mother of forests" (...). Throughout the world, nature was the abode of the divinities that gave the forest, the desert or the mountains a personality which commanded worship and respect. The Earth had a soul. To find that soul again, to give it new life, that is the essence of Rio.

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